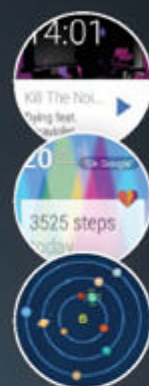


NEW

The Android Wear Book

Suitable
for all
models

Includes in-depth guides to all of
the essential Android Wear apps



Get more
from your
smartwatch



Get fit and keep track
on your devices

Set up guide • Essential apps explained • Step-by-step tutorials • 100% unofficial

Welcome to

The Android Wear Book

In an age of smart phones, tablets and computers that are too intelligent for their own good it seems strange that smartwatch technology is only now becoming a reality. We've imagined it for decades, but if you have ever fancied feeling like James Bond, now is your time. One major asset of Android Wear, is its ability to measure your health and fitness, helping to keep track of your improvements, your daily steps and your heart rate. It can even help you improve your sleeping patterns. Beyond that, you can use your watch to answer your phone calls, message your friends and even play the occasional game. Like all other Android devices, Wear smartwatches are completely hackable, allowing you to create ROMs and enter into a whole new world of freedom inside your device. Read on to get started and utilise your Android Wear today.



The Android Wear Book

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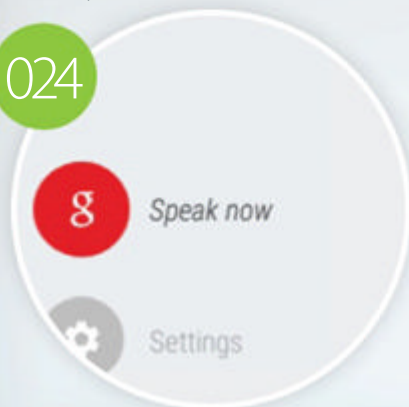
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"They're cool.
They've always
been cool"

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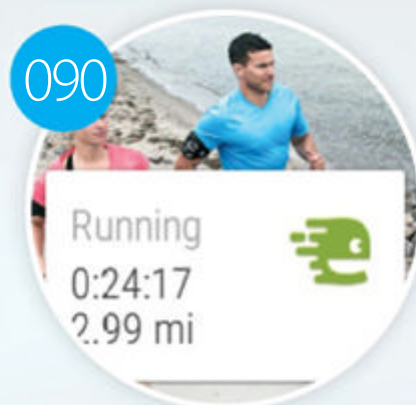


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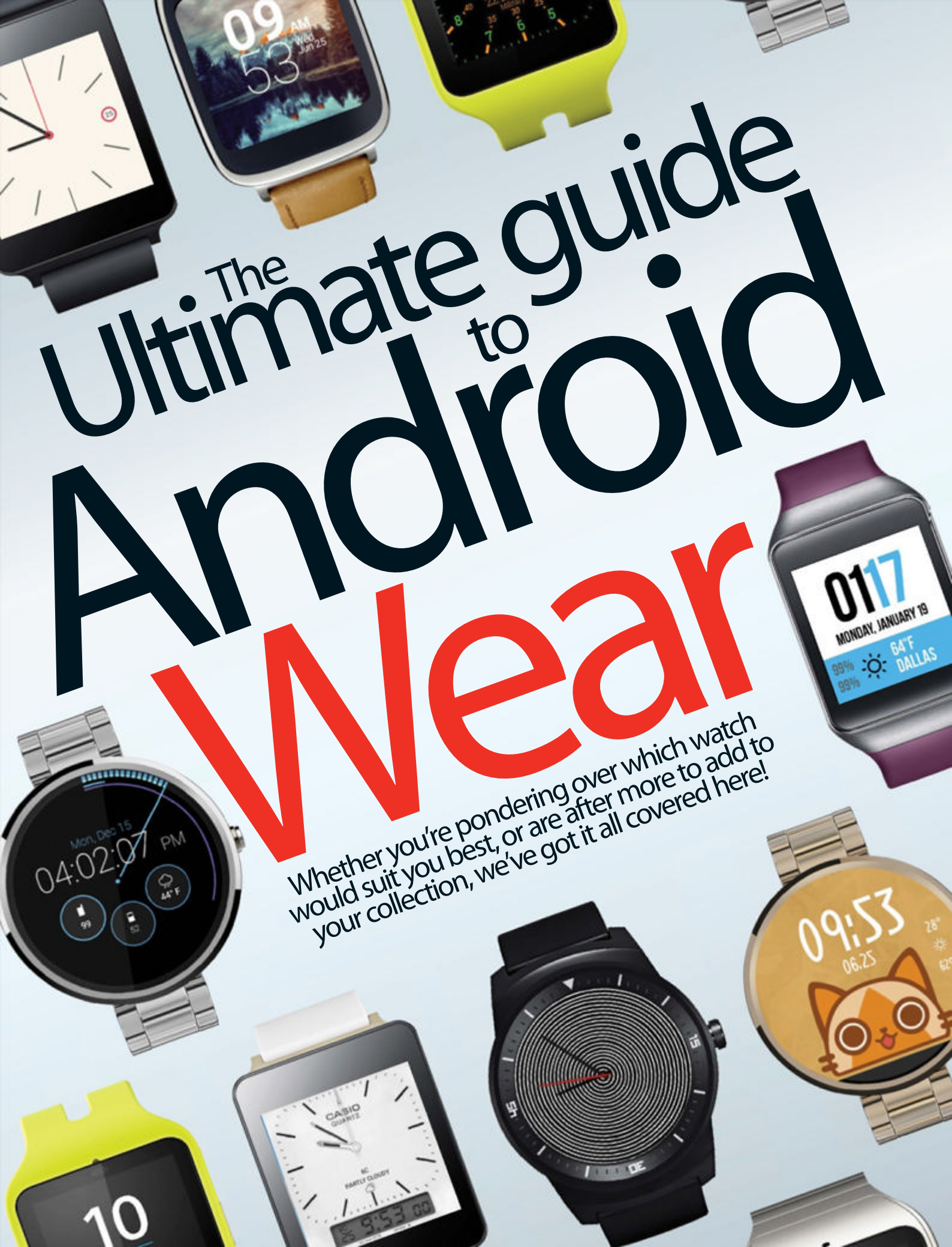
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The Ultimate guide to Android Wear

Whether you're pondering over which watch would suit you best, or are after more to add to your collection, we've got it all covered here!



What is Android Wear?

A brand new and exciting technology from our favourite search engine provider, and mobile operating-system maker, Google. What exactly is it though?

Dream of the future

Since the inception of science fiction and secret-agent media, there's been one type of technology throughout the eras and across mediums that has always been used – communicator watches. Someone, invariably our heroic protagonist, lifts a watch to their face when no one is looking and talks to someone on the other side of a phone or their own snazzy watch for information or support.

They're cool. They've always been cool. From Dick Tracy's two-way radio watch from the Forties to Billy the blue Power Ranger's wrist communicators in the Nineties, the idea has always captured the hearts of kids and adults alike. When we entered the age of smartphones, our childhood dreams of watches that we could talk through seemed just around the corner. With all the power our magic pocket boxes had, couldn't we make a magic wrist box that could do the same?

We were right! From 2010, we started to see phone-connected smartwatches. The Sony LiveView was one of the first, but limited to texts and emails with no way to talk through your wrist. Same with the original Pebble and the other smartwatches that came after it. Unfortunately, phone watches seemed like something that would stay in our imaginations for the time being.

Google to the rescue

This wasn't for long though. In 2014, Google announced its Android Wear project, a version of the Android operating system specifically slimmed down and optimised for use with a smartwatch and other smaller devices. These smartwatches and devices now come under the new umbrella of wearable tech – literally technology that you wear on your person. This also includes the Google Glass project that was linked to Android, however, that's not properly part of Android Wear.

Android Wear, like the previous smartwatches, connects to your Android device and works in tandem with it. This allows you to receive emails, texts and basically every other notification that would come up on your phone while you're using it.

It also, finally, lets you talk through your watch. You are able to answer calls, send voice messages and use Google Now and voice search in order to control your phone while talking through your wrist. It's evolved past a 'simple' phone watch to telling KITT from *Knight Rider* to come and pick you up, or at least setting up satellite navigation for you to drive yourself somewhere.

As it connects to Google Now, this also means any relevant notifications and information that may be useful for you at any given moment will pop up on your watch. Parcel deliveries, appointments, reminders, football scores and much more. When you check your watch to see if it is time to head home after work, you will get an ETA on how long it will take. The whole system is far beyond a watch with phone capabilities, thanks in part to its connection to your phone.

As it's also based on Android, you can install apps to it created by the community. This includes improvements to its default functions, games for the watch, remote controls for specific



What watches can you get?

Since Android Wear has been announced, there has been a fairly broad selection of watches from different manufacturers, each one offering a slightly different take on the Android smartwatch. Which one should you choose though? Which one has the right features for you?

Over the following pages, we're going to look at six of the best current watches to let you know which ones should have your attention – whether you're looking for a pure piece of tech or a stealthy smartwatch, one of these should be perfect for you.



apps, and other ways to improve your Wear experience. There's in-built pedometer and other motion sensors, so you can even use it as part of your fitness regime or a replacement for a Fitbit.

Google on your hand

While Google isn't making the Android Wear devices, it has partnered with some of the more prolific Android device manufacturers to make sure there are some excellent products available. You'll see them throughout these pages, and as you may have noticed, they all offer something slightly different – whether

it's specific fashion or hardware choices, you're covered by a wide variety of devices that should suit your style.

Even though they're made by different companies, they work on all compatible Android smartphones, which are those that are running Android 4.3 and above. So while there's no Nexus watch (yet), any of the current and future devices will work on Google's flagship Nexus devices, or any other phone or tablet for that matter.

Which one to choose though? Well, hopefully the information for each of the watches on these pages should give you

enough information to figure out which one is best for you. Some have physical buttons, and can be made to look like a classy analogue watch at first glance, for those who want something a little more up market. The squarer ones may be slightly better for a more technical user, and no physical button means no chance of breaking a function on the watch. They're all pretty great products at the moment though, so whatever one you pick, it shouldn't be a dud.

You can also read the other information in this book to help settle on which one would be best for you. Whatever you choose, make sure you enjoy the future as much as you can.

LG G Watch

A launch device for Android Wear, the LG G Watch might be first-gen, but it's still a great watch for early adopters

A basic body

The G Watch has a comfortable rubber strap and a simple rectangular face – there are no extra buttons or bells and whistles; it's purely a way to have Android Wear

Charger cradle

The G Watch uses a cradle to charge and connect to a computer – there's no direct USB connection on the device. It's not inductive either, there are physical connectors on the dock

Internal storage

There's 4GB of on-board storage for installing apps and such – you won't be storing media, so for the time being that's more than enough space for software

Dust and water resistant

LG claims it's IP67 certified for dust and water – what this means is that it is completely protected from contact to dust, and can even survive in up to 1M of water

The LG G Watch is one of the most iconic Android Wear devices around, in no small part thanks to the name of it. Reminiscent of the old T-Mobile G phone designations and their own G3 phone, the G Watch was also one of the first devices to use Android Wear. Released on the same date as the Samsung Gear Live, these were the launch devices for Android Wear, with the G Watch being the slightly cheaper version.

While it is the cheaper model, it is by no means a cheap product. With a decent selection of hardware inside it, the only real cost-cutting methods are on the design, with a simple rectangular LCD screen and rubber strap, with no physical buttons at all.

The G Watch is available from the Play Store in various regions, and is currently still one of your cheapest entries into the world of Android Wear.



Computer connection?

If you're having a little trouble connecting your G Watch to a PC – something you'd want to do for developing and hacking the watch – you may need to activate the debugging mode first. To do this, pull down the top to access the settings and About menu. Press the build number seven times to turn on development options and activate USB debugging.

LG G Watch R

A classier version of the original G Watch markets itself as a more classic analogue watch but with secret smart functions

Circular face

You'll find that the circular OLED screen brings out far more vibrant colours in the on-screen graphics, and works a lot better in sunlight than the LCD screen of the G Watch

A new strap

While the strap is interchangeable, the G Watch R comes with a leather strap by default. Although it doesn't really look it at first glance, once you're wearing it you'll know



Heart-rate monitor

On the underside of the watch is a dedicated heart-rate monitor, which is able to sync up with your fitness-tracking apps for better logging of your daily activities

Charging cradle

Much like the original G Watch, the Watch R does not have a dedicated USB port, but must be connected to a dock for charging purposes – again it's a physical connection



Whereas the original G Watch was a great, cheap launch device, the G Watch R is your more classy, pricier product, which includes the circular watch face that a fair few interested parties have been looking forward to having. A significant improvement in many ways to the G Watch and its circular competitor, the Moto 360, the G Watch R has been designed to look like a real watch. From the second bezel rim on the outside of the

screen to a default high-end watch face, in theory it should pass for a fashion item rather than a gadget.

The insides of the G Watch R are basically the same as the original G Watch – a 1.2 GHz Snapdragon processor powers it, and there's 512 MB of RAM with 4 GB of storage for apps and such. What makes it better over the original is a superior, OLED screen, better heart-rate monitoring and a new barometer.

LG G Watch 2

Contrary to what you might first think, the G Watch R is not in fact the successor to the original G Watch. It is just a slightly different version of it for a different audience. As the watch itself still has the same hardware inside, it is up to the screen and sensors to pick up the slack and make it a different product. And it's then up to you as to whether you think it's significantly different.

Samsung Gear Live

The latest in the line of Samsung wearables, and the first to feature official Android Wear software rather than a proprietary effort

Steel body

A completely metal, rectangular frame made this more robust than the G Watch when they both launched Android Wear. It also has a physical button, though – not a common feature

OLED Screen

Better in sunlight, Samsung specialises in OLED screens that bring out rich colours. The screen is about the same size as other smartwatches – odd considering Samsung likes big

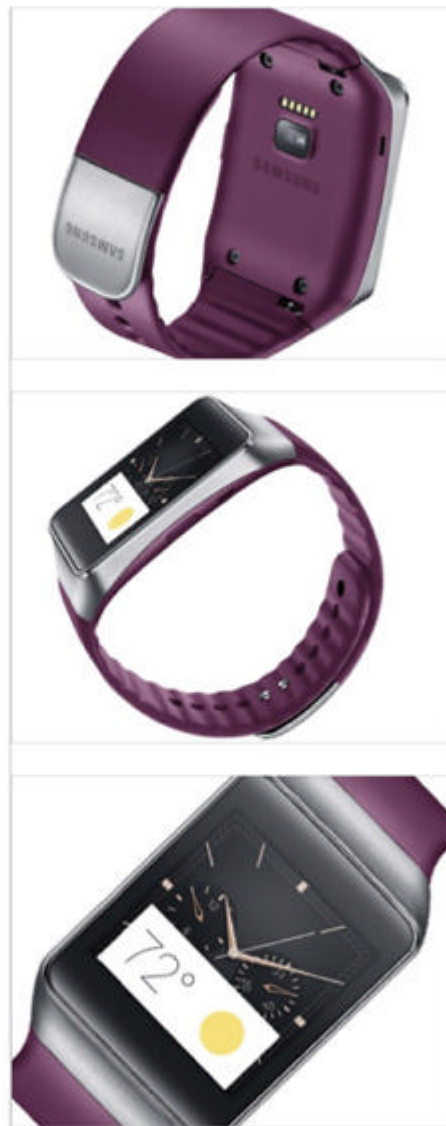


Heart-rate monitor

A dedicated heart-rate monitor on the underside can detect your pulse while you're on the go, feeding directly into fitness apps and trackers for calories burned and steps a day

Docking charger

Like the LG watches, the Gear Live requires a cradle for charging, using the pins on the underside to connect to the provided dock. There's no USB micro port for connecting



A continuation of the Samsung Galaxy Gear line for the Galaxy phone series comes this Android Wear launch device. The more expensive launch item, the Gear Live's higher price tag afforded it an improved body and feature set over the G Watch that it launched with. Including a metal body, an OLED screen and a heart-rate monitor on the underside, it was technically better than the G Watch, even if the improvements were only minor.

It does have a smaller battery though, and while the screen will use a little less power, you may find yourself charging it on a daily basis, rather than every other day, like on the G Watch and other devices.

Still, as a launch product for early adopters and current adopters alike, it is a rather excellent device that, due to price drops, has become slightly more reasonable than some of its counterparts.

Design decisions

You wouldn't be mistaken for thinking the Gear Live looks like a continuation of the Galaxy Gear line, although of course it now has Android Wear on board, rather than Samsung's own software. The rectangular watch face and strap design are almost identical, and even the home interface of the Galaxy Gear looks very similar to that on Android Wear.

ASUS ZenWatch

The PC maker continues to its foray into Android devices with a high-quality smartwatch of its own

Less resistant

While a lot of the Android Wear watches are dust proof and can survive submerged in about 1M of water, the ZenWatch is little more susceptible to dust and cannot be submerged

Square screen, large bezel

Another square watch offering, although this one is slightly more stylised with a large bezel around the quite-standard 1.63" OLED display that is easier to look at outside

Lovely leather

The best leather strap on the Android Wear crew, the ZenWatch's looks and feels like proper leather, with a nice clasp to go with it. It's changeable if you require though

Cradle connection

Yet another device only chargeable via a dock, again using physical connections. These ones fit more flush with the wrist though. Rather than pins, it has contact circles



ASUS's time in the Android market has been slightly overshadowed by other, more established mobile-phone manufacturers, such as Samsung, Motorola and Sony, but it has still been able to make some excellent devices that are as good as any of the more popular phones. Its major entry in the market was the Nexus 7, Google's flagship tablet that launched the tablet capabilities of Android along with it. ASUS is having another go at

being the early user of new technology with its ZenWatch smartwatch.

One of the nicer looking rectangular Android Wear devices, the ZenWatch comes with a leather strap and an OLED screen moulded into its metal frame. It has a full range of movement sensors for the fitness enthusiasts, as well as 'biosensors' for accurate tracking. It's also a little more pricey than some of the other watches, even though its guts are roughly the same.

Clasping the situation

The clasp on the ZenWatch's leather strap is not as simple as the usual buckle on most leather straps, an indeed the majority of the Android Wear devices – its much closer to the kind you get on a metal strap. Unlike a metal strap, it's much easier to change the length of the affixed strap. This can make it slightly tricky to close at first, but with a bit of practice you'll get it.

Moto 360

The first circular Android Wear, and from veteran mobile phone makers, the Moto 360 has interested a lot of people wanting a smartwatch

Circular display

The first Android Wear device to use the lauded circular display, although this uses an LCD one rather than LED. It can be much brighter, especially indoors, and it goes right to the edge

Physical button

A single button exists on the side, allowing you to go back to the 'home' screen – the standard watch face – and wake the watch if you don't want to prod it or flick your wrist

Different types

There are several combinations of straps and fascia colours you can have, which include leather and various metal straps, along with two frame colours of light and dark

Wireless charging

The Moto 360 uses induction charging by way of a special dock that lets you set the watch on its side as a makeshift alarm clock at night – although there's no physical connector on it at all



While not a launch device, the release of the Moto 360 was anticipated by some, as it was the first of the Android Wear line – and even possibly the first smartwatch ever – to include a circular display like a classic watch. While a lot of people like to embrace new technology, some also like to make sure they still have their classic sensibilities accounted for.

The Moto 360 is not only one of the first circular displays in the Android Wear line, it's

also the first to use wireless inductive charging. While this has been experimented on in the past with various phones, it's never fully taken off, however, the way we use watches is perfect for the way inductive charging works – taking your watch off at night and placing it down to charge is great.

The insides are roughly the same as the other watches, although it uses an OMAP processor over a Snapdragon.

Edge to edge

The most unique feature about the Moto 360's design – in terms of actually using it – is the complete lack of bezel on the display. The screen takes up the top of the watch in its entirety, allowing you to swipe and touch all the way to the edge. Whether this is to better camouflage the watch or not, it does make it really rather interesting to use.

Sony SmartWatch 3

The successor to the LiveView and the SmartWatch 2 is one of the newest smartwatch offerings using Android Wear

Uniform design

The watch is moulded into the rubber strap, reminiscent of fitness-tracking watches and rubber digital watches that are teen fashion. The strap is not replaceable because of this

Wired charging

This is the only Android Wear with a physical connector – while this can be useful for a lot of things, it is actually a little fiddly and on the underside of the watch



GPS on your wrist

The SmartWatch 3, even though it's capable of connecting to your phone's own navigation, has built-in GPS. This is mainly used when the phone isn't around to be connected to

Independent watch

A constant connection isn't needed; you can load music to it and listen via bluetooth headphones or speakers. It remembers GPS activity for uploading to your trackers



The original Sony LiveView wasn't great. It was tied to earlier versions of Android, had dodgy bluetooth connections and a preference for a very small selection of Xperia phones from 2010. While the SmartWatch 2 had some massive improvements over it, there were still some of the same connectivity issues.

Keeping with the brand name, Sony has latched right onto Android Wear, and released a brand new smartwatch, the SmartWatch 3. The

whole thing has been completely redesigned, doing away with the multiple buttons and detachable display to be more in line with the other watches (and actual watches) as a proper competitor to them.

It's also the most powerful watch of the bunch, with the ability to perform some tasks without being connected to a phone. The connectivity issues seem to be resolved, and they work fine on any brand of phone as well.

No cradles

The SmartWatch 3 is the only smartwatch that does not have a cradle or induction charging ability, however, it does have a slightly larger battery so that you do not need to charge it every single night. Although it will not wirelessly charge, it does have NFC capabilities, so you are able to touch yourself in and out of places when it becomes supported.

The best Android Wear faces

Make the most of your Android Wear watch with this scintillating collection of faces. They don't just look good, they are also highly functional



Golden Beauty

Free

If you think fondly of traditional mechanical watches, the Golden Beauty will be one of your first Android Wear choices. It displays moving gears, you can change the colour of the face, and even the hour indicators are removable. A true masterpiece for the modern age.



Pujie Black

£0.97/\$1.48

The customisation options available in the Pujie Black face mean that you can make it work exactly as you want it to. Whether you prefer an analog or digital screen, or you want a quick update on the current weather, you can do it all here with ease. It also looks great.



Retro Rocket

£0.64/\$0.97

Your watch face does not have to be functional and serious. You can also have some fun and add personality to your Android Wear device using a face such as Retro Rocket. It is hard not to love the cartoon-styled graphics from the past, which work very well indeed.

Check the weather

Check current weather conditions and the minimum and maximum temperatures using this subtle dial. It cleverly looks like a standard dial on a normal watch face

Where are you?

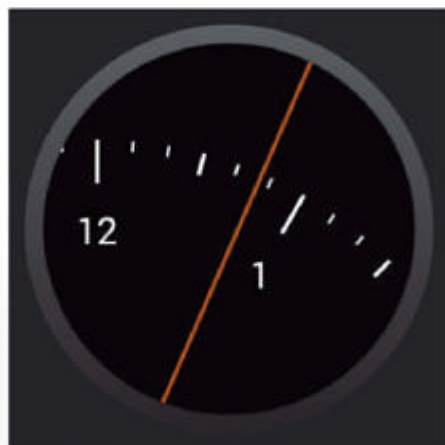
How better to display a simple compass than by hiding it within the watch face. This feature highlights exactly who this watch face is designed for and it works extremely well



Ranger Military

£0.99/\$1.51

If you have an adventurous spirit and travel a lot, the Ranger Military watch face will be the perfect Android Wear addition for you. It offers the ability to customise many facets to deliver the exact information you need all the time and also has a clever night mode.



Spotlight

Free

If design is more important to you than accuracy, Spotlight may be the ideal watch face for you. It only uses one hand inside an oversized face to give you an approximation of the time, but it looks lovely and could be just right for your needs. It's also very different.

Colour combinations

The use of colours in this watch face is reminiscent of the Seventies, yet it still looks ultra-modern. Depending on your tastes, this is one of the best looking faces available

Days and dates

The day and date display fit the overall design perfectly and are a realistic addition, which is also extremely practical. What's even better is that they will always be completely accurate



9elements One

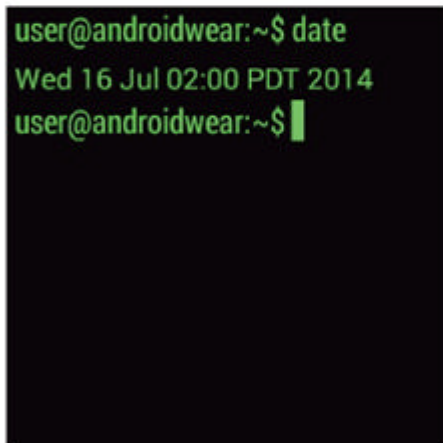
Free

Despite the crazy design of this watch face, the way it works actually makes perfect sense. Rather than show hands within a circle, it visually reads the time to you. This can take time to get used to and is not the quickest way to glance at the time, but it is unique.

70s watchface

Free

The Seventies is not always looked upon positively when it comes to fashion, but watches from that time are very collectable and still look modern today. Maybe that's why this watch face stands out for its superlative design. It really is gorgeous to look at.



Terminal

Free

In complete contrast to the trend of making Android Wear faces as traditional as possible, Terminal offers an old-school computing view of the time and date. It won't be for everyone, but it has some charm, which a minority will love a lot. It's a computer on your wrist.



It's Time

Free

Can anything be easier to read than some words that tell you the current time? Probably not, and that is why this watch face works so efficiently. It is similar to one of the standard Pebble watch faces and will appeal to those who cannot even spare a single second.



Scuba Diver

Free

Dive watches have forever been popular and today they are still considered the pinnacle of watches for many people. This Android Wear face offers all of the readability of a traditional dive watch, and is sure to make any watch look much more impressive throughout the day.

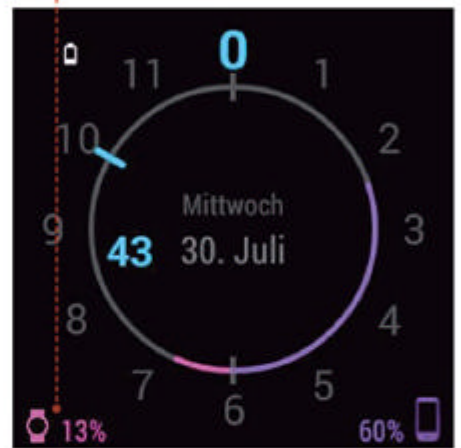


Subtle indicators

The hours and minutes are displayed by highlighted numbers in the Chrono watch face. It is a very unusual way to display the time, but it makes perfect sense after a while

Dual batteries

This watch face displays battery levels for the Android Wear watch and connected phone so you will never run short of power unexpectedly again. All watch faces should do this

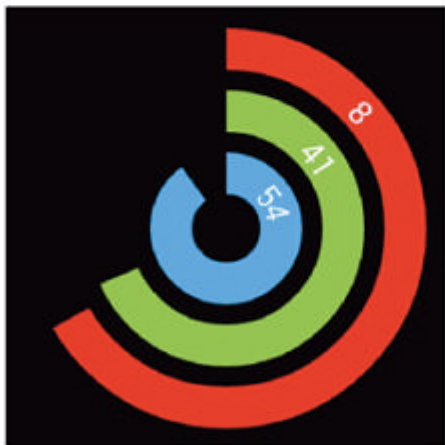


Chrono Watch Face for Wear

Free

Chrono is very unusual in the way it displays the hours and minutes, but the overall look is minimalist enough to not clutter the small Android Wear screen. The fact that it displays dual battery indicators and can be customised in many ways makes it a winner in our eyes.

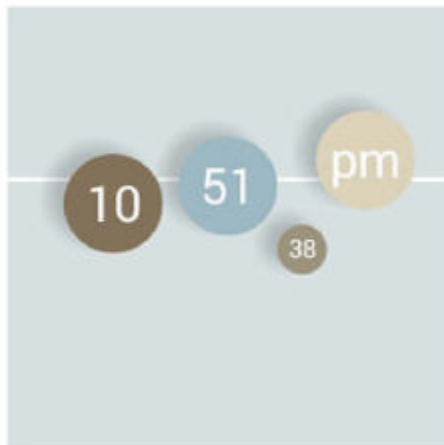
"The overall look is minimalist enough to not clutter the small Android Wear screen"



Radial

Free

Radial is very different to a normal watch face, and even different compared to most Android Wear faces. It ensures that notifications never obscure the current time and lets you read the hours, minutes and seconds in unique and colourful circles. It's practical and good fun.



Convergence

Free

Convergence offers a beautiful design that looks fantastic no matter which colour scheme you use, but the way it moves is what makes it so interesting. The circles almost float in real-time as you walk to create a compelling experience, which really is very unusual.



Retro LCD

Free

The classic LCD watch is loved by millions for its ability to display the time, date and other useful bits of information in a small space. Well, now you can have the exact same experience on your Android Wear watch and also check the current battery status at any time.



Secret Agent

Free

Would you like to pretend that you are a secret agent? If that is something that floats your boat, you may want to take a look at the Secret Agent watch face. It will not fool anyone of course, but it is harmless fun and highlights the flexibility of Android Wear.



Skinny Love

£0.64/\$0.98

There is something special about handwritten text and numbers on a digital interface, and the Skinny Love watch face uses this method to great effect. You can choose from a couple of themes and also see the time and date easily at any time. It's good fun and easy to use.



ACW

Free

The ACW watch face does the basics well, which is to clearly show you the date and time, but it also lets you use custom backgrounds to add some personality and depth to the experience. You can change the look every day and still enjoy the truly excellent readability.



Sweeping seconds

The second hand sweeps in real-time to add a classic touch to the display that only the wearer will probably notice. It highlights the care and attention put in to this face



Complete subtlety

Every part of the design is subtle; the only real customisations that can be made are to remove the wording from the face. This means it'll always feel consistent



Classic Watch Face for Wear

Free

Traditional watch faces are often only separated by tiny details that enthusiasts appreciate, and the developer of this watch face understands that. It is classically beautiful and will look the part no matter where you take it. A case of less is definitely more here.

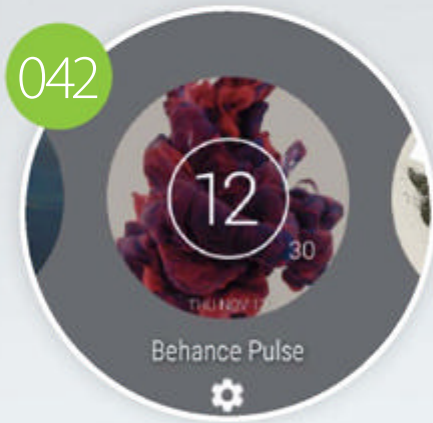
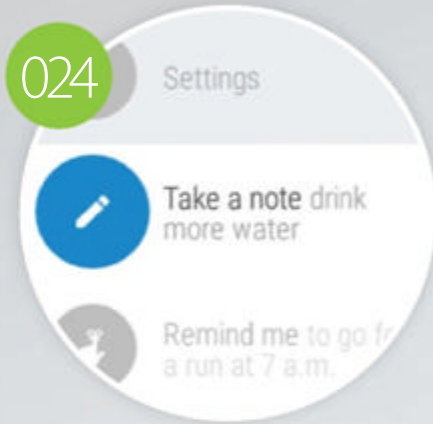
"It is classically beautiful and will look the part no matter where you take it"



Getting Started

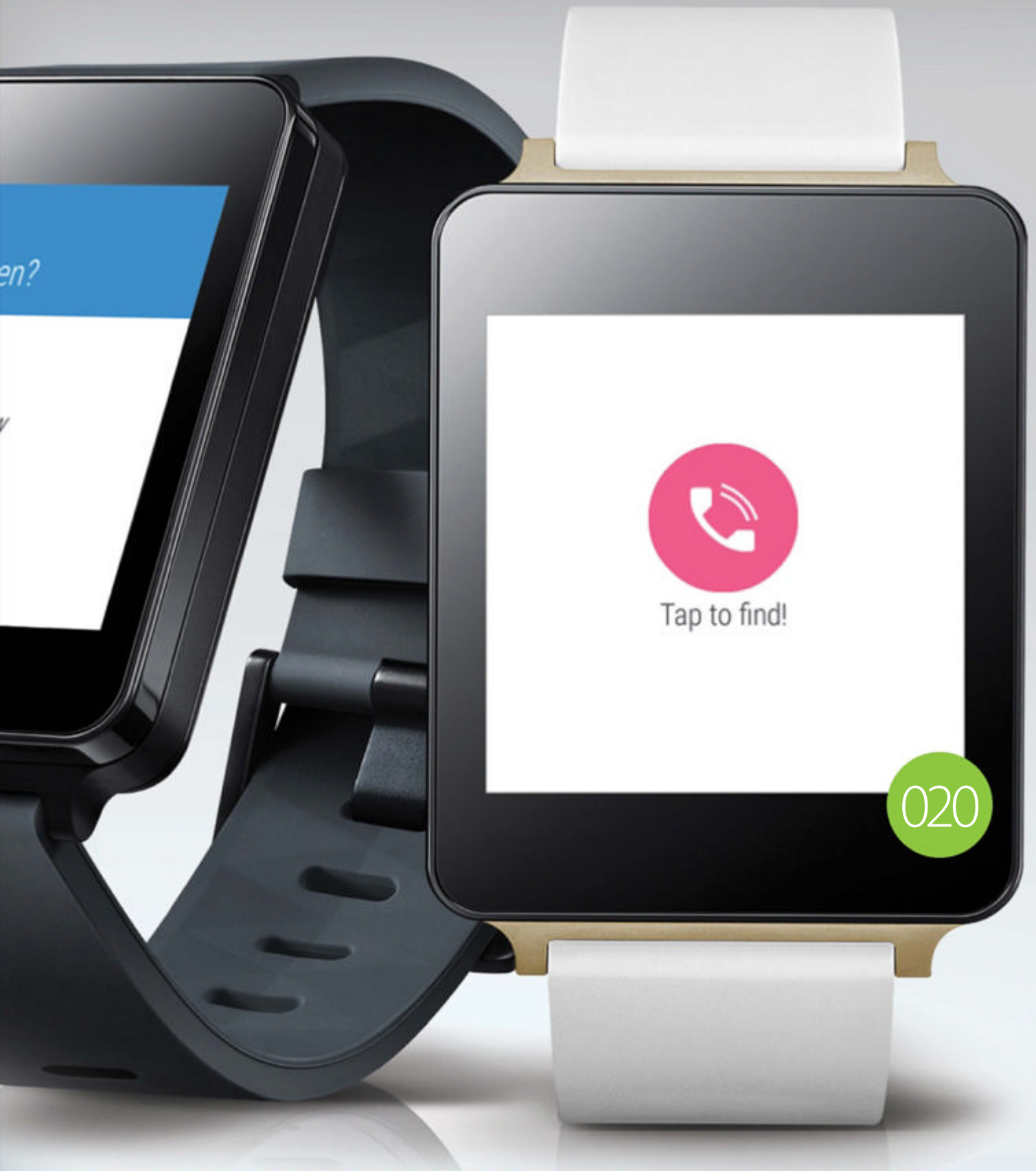
Get started with your Android Wear, delve into the settings to make your device most suited to you

- 024** **Set up your Android Wear watch**
Make the first steps with your watch
- 028** **Use the Android Wear app on your phone**
Navigate around the Android Wear phone app
- 030** **Display information on your watch with Google Now cards**
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"Ok Google... teach me how to..."
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- 036** **Track what is installed on your wear**
Keep a note of what is on your watch
- 037** **Master quick settings**
Change settings in a few short taps
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Utilise Android Wear's customisation
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- 044** **Use a mini launcher**
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Find your phone using your watch
- 046** **Search using your voice**
Search for the answer with your voice
- 047** **Set an alarm on your watch**
Wake up to your watch's alarm
- 048** **Take a screenshot**
Snapshot your watch's screen



032

"Android Wear watch uses a version of the Android operating system"



Set up your Android Wear watch

Before you can begin receiving notifications and remotely accessing apps, follow these instructions to connect your watch with your Android phone or tablet



Before you can really start using your Android Wear smartwatch, you will need to connect it with your smartphone or tablet.

Android Wear watches don't have built-in cellular radio or Wi-Fi connection, so to search the web and receive notifications the watch needs to connect – or 'pair' – with your main handset. Without this connection, your smartwatch is not much smarter than most conventional digital watches – it can tell the time, set an alarm and track your footsteps, but not a lot else. Fortunately, pairing the devices is relatively simple.

As its name suggests, your Android Wear watch uses a version of the Android operating system. That means that unlike Pebble or other brand smartwatches, it will not work with an

iPhone or iPad. If you have an Android phone, make sure it is fully charged and connected to Wi-Fi or mobile data to begin.

Your smartwatch should be turned on and within a few feet of your phone. If your watch is fresh out of the box, you will need to place it on a plugged-in charging pad for a few moments. When it is ready, it will turn on by itself.

"If you have an Android phone, make sure it is fully charged and connected to Wi-Fi or mobile data"



Get to know Android Wear

Understand what each component does before getting started

Android Wear app

This free app for your phone is essential for connecting your handset with your smartwatch

Explore features

Tap the three-dot icon to see menu options and tap the cog icon to explore settings

Your watch face

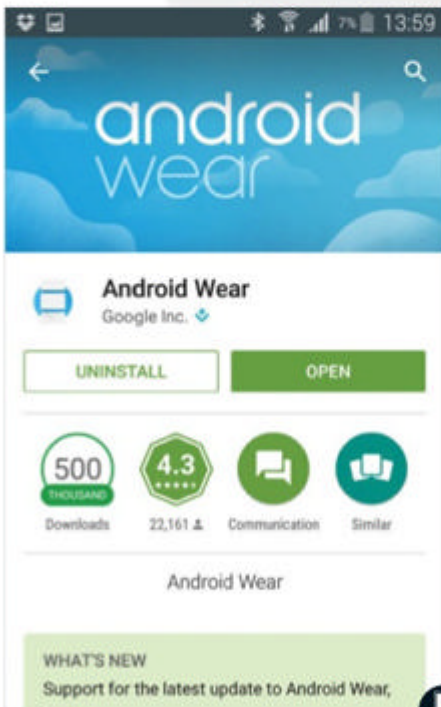
When you don't have any notifications waiting, this is what your watch home screen looks like

Ask for help

If you're really struggling with the set up, tap the three-dot menu in the Android Wear app, then select Help & Feedback. Along with a range of helpful articles, here you can request a callback from a specialist helpline.

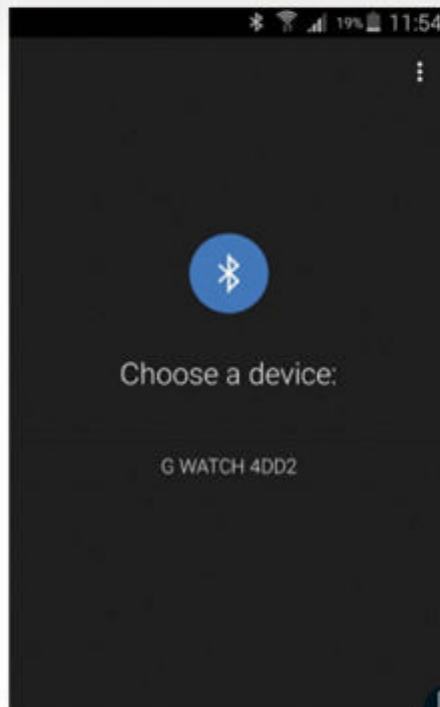
Android Wear

Start using your Android Wear watch with your phone



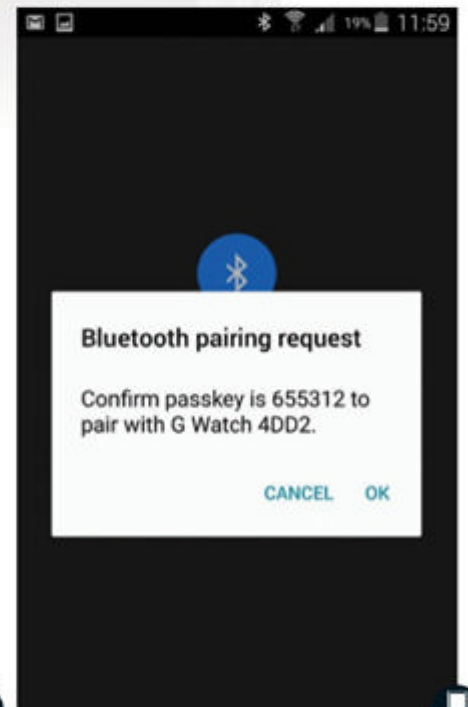
1: Download the app

Download the Android Wear app for free from Google Play. It will only work with phones and tablets running Android 4.3 Jellybean and up, so make sure your device is compatible and up to date. It also requires 15.60MB storage.



2: Connect via Bluetooth

Turn on your Android Wear smart watch and your main handset's Bluetooth, and open the Android Wear app. The app should detect your watch. If not, select 'Pair with a new wearable' from the app's drop-down menu.

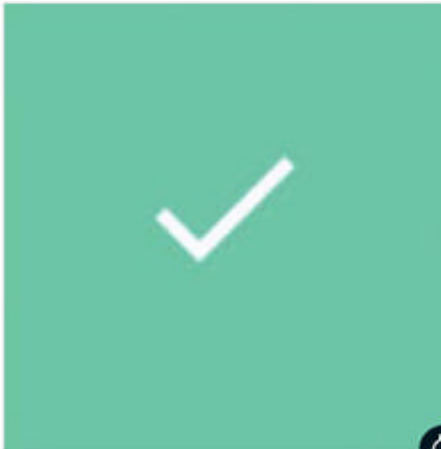


3: Confirm the pairing

Once you've selected pairing on your phone, a screen will appear on your watch asking you to confirm the process. Both devices will display a code so you know it's your phone requesting the link. Tap your watch to confirm the pairing.

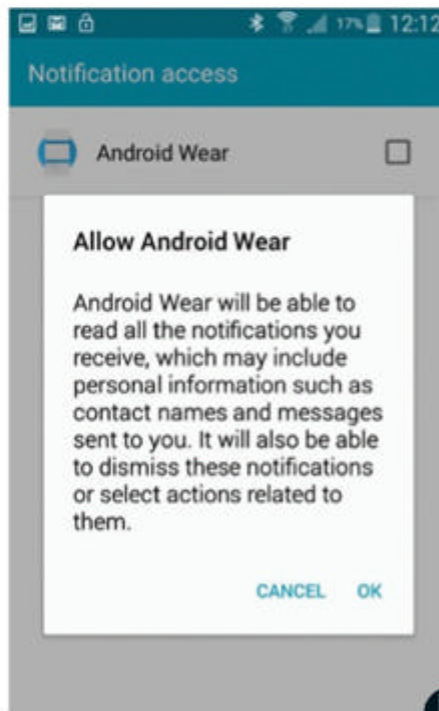


“To search the web and receive notifications the watch needs to connect with your main handset”



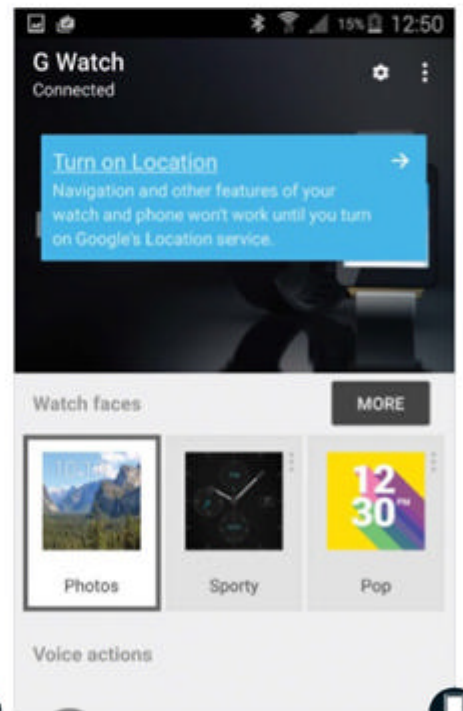
4: Install updates

Depending on when you bought your watch, your watch may automatically download and install a software update after you pair with a phone for the first time. If this happens, your watch will automatically restart after updating.



5: Turn on watch notifications

The main purpose of your watch is to display notifications. Go to 'Notification access' in the Android Wear app settings. Tick the box next to Android Wear to set them up. Press the Back button at the bottom of the settings screen.



6: Turn on location services

Several Android Wear's features, like turn-by-turn navigation, require GPS. Currently, only the Sony Smartwatch 3 has GPS built in; other Android Wear watches use your main handset's Location Services. Ensure this is switched on.

Take the tour

Explore Android Wear with Google's own interactive tutorial

Watch tutorial

Once you've paired your devices, an interactive tutorial will launch. On your phone it will guide you through Android Wear's features

Learn to swipe

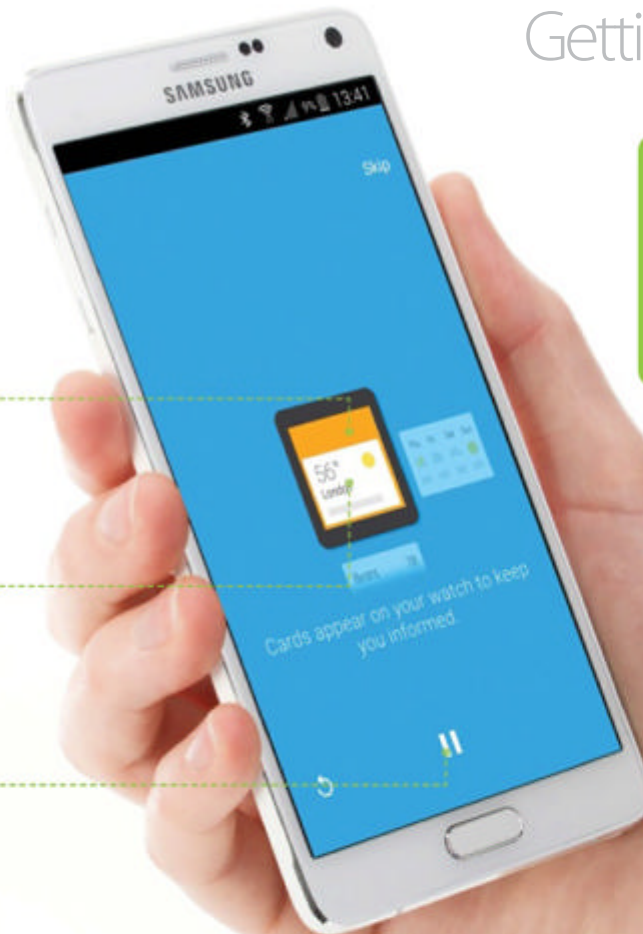
On your watch, the tutorial will guide you through Android Wear's gesture control, for instance, swiping right to dismiss notifications

Replay tutorial

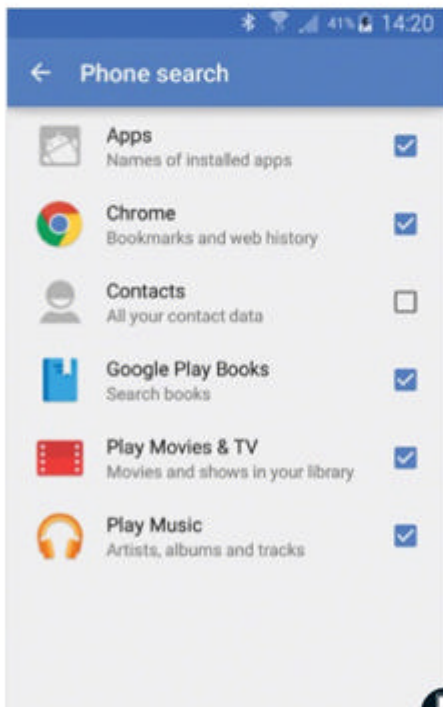
In the Android Wear phone app, open menu options and select Tutorial to replay the tutorial at any time

Pair with a different device

Your watch can only pair with one phone at a time, but if you decide to change which device it's connected to, go to Settings and select Forget, then repeat steps 1 to 9.

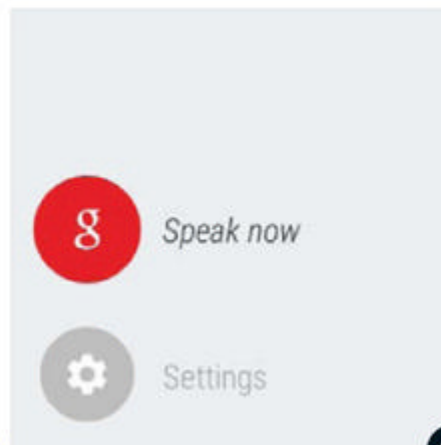


"Your watch can only pair with one phone at a time"



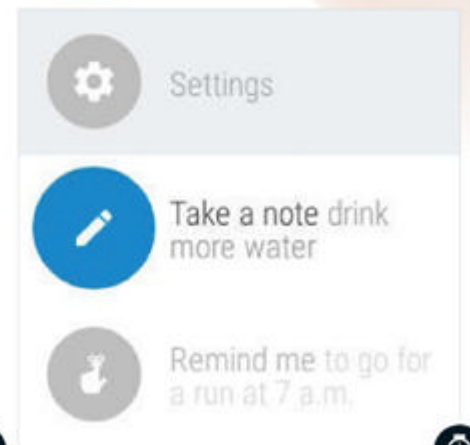
7: Turn on contacts recognition

To make it possible to call, text or email contacts via your watch, ensure your contacts recognition is turned on. Open the Google app on your phone, select Settings>Phone search, then tick the box next to Contacts.



8: Use voice commands

The default watch face for Android Wear displays the time, but tap anywhere on the screen to launch Google Now. When the screen turns white and says 'Speak now', use voice commands to open apps and more.



9: Use manual controls

If you'd prefer not to give spoken commands, tap the screen to launch Google Now. When it says 'Speak now,' swipe up to manually scroll through Android Wear's features. Scroll down to 'Start...' to access the watch's app drawer.

Use the Android Wear app on your phone

With the help of the Android Wear Phone app you'll be able to manage and modify your Android Wear preferences, calibrating your watch to your exact needs



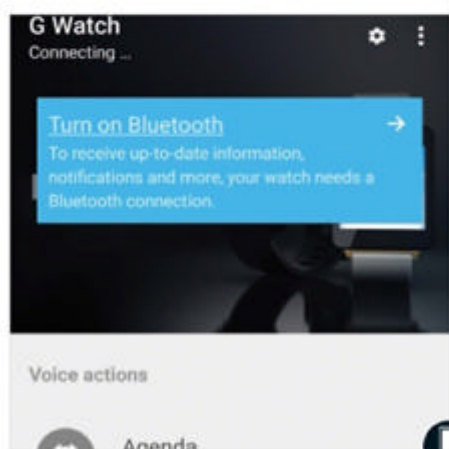
With the Android Wear Phone app installed on your smartphone, you can instantly connect your Android Wear

device to your phone, allowing it to access all of your device's apps. The Android Wear Phone app is a necessary instalment if you want to use a Wear device with your smartphone. The app works as much as a guide as it does a toolbox to managing your Wear device. Within the app you can change your watch face, review voice action commands and browse through suggested apps that are compatible with Android Wear.

Since Android Wear is quite a new technology, Android is keen to hear about any bugs that occur with its Wear devices. Within the app you'll be able to report bugs you've found while using the device.

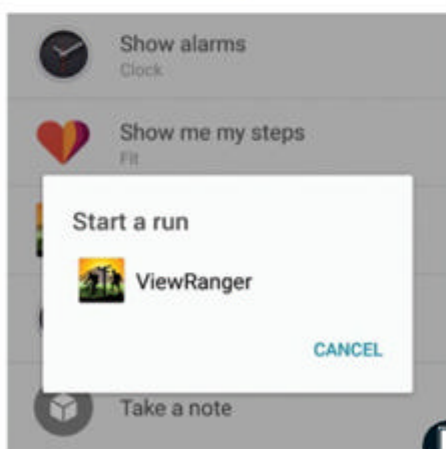
The majority of tools you'll use are in the Settings window of the app. Here you can adjust the wake and sleep options for your watch, manage notification settings, and modify the behaviour of your Android Wear device and how it communicates with your smartphone. You'll also be able to use the app to run tutorials on how to use your Wear device.

Android Wear Phone Manage your preferences



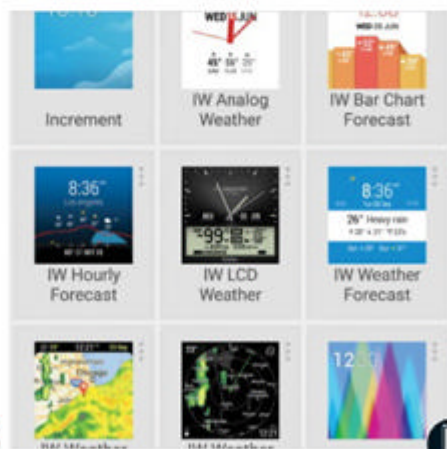
1: Connect your device

Open the Android Wear Phone app and you'll be prompted to turn on Bluetooth. Once turned on, tap on the name of your Android Wear device to connect it to your phone.



2: View voice notes

Scroll downward within the app to the Voice Actions subheading. Tap on an action to view it in full. When new apps are installed, their voice actions will appear here.



3: Change your watch face

From the app's home screen next to the watch face's subheading, tap More. Here you can browse all of the default watch faces that are currently installed on your device.

The Settings window

Use settings in the Android Wear Phone app to configure your Wear device

Access Android Wear tutorials

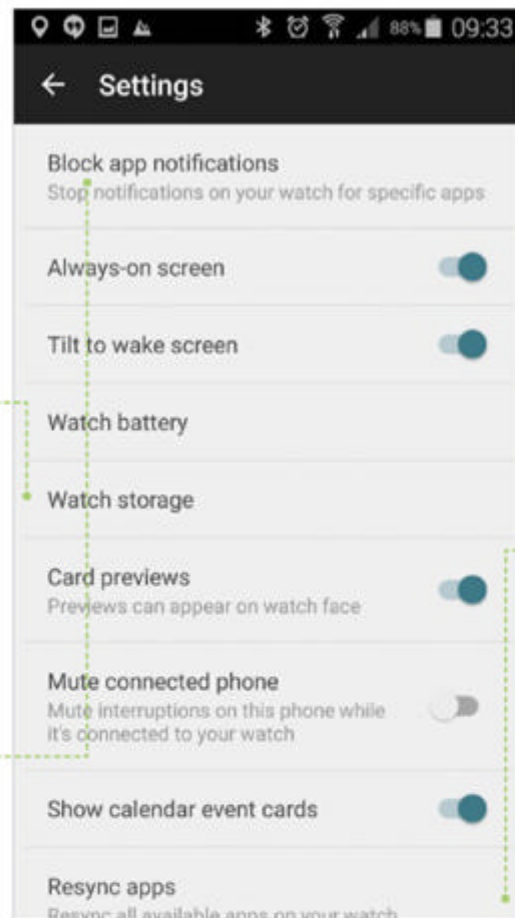
If you need more help using your Android Wear device you can access an interactive tutorial from the Menu button in the Android Wear Phone app. This tutorial will run you through the basics of getting started on your Wear device, and will teach you how cards work, displaying information on both your phone and your watch face.

Watch storage

Your watch comes with a finite amount of storage space. Tap here to view how much storage space you have available, and to find out what apps take up the most space

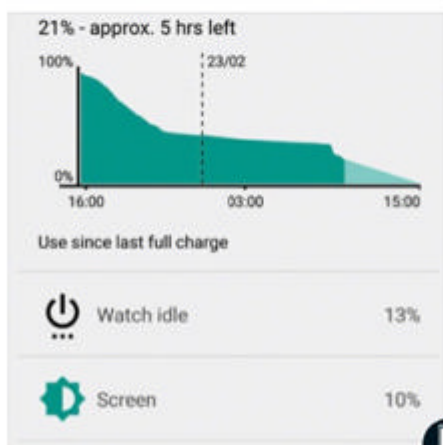
Block app notifications

App notifications can be blocked from your Wear device. Tap here to view blocked apps, as well as add new ones or remove apps that you've previously blocked



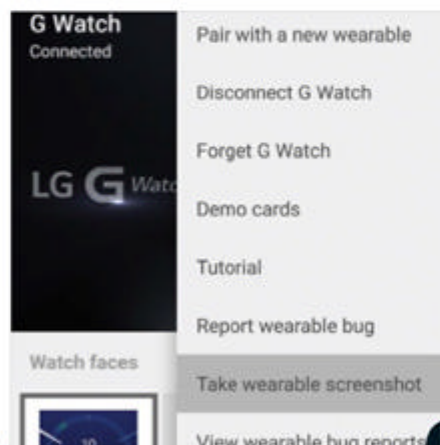
Resync apps

If you are having trouble running your Android Wear device, tap Resync apps to reinstall all of the apps you currently have on your watch. This may fix the problem



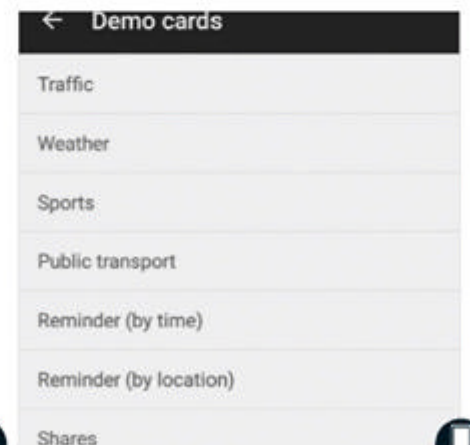
4: Check battery information

Tap the Settings icon in the top-right corner of the app, then tap Watch Battery. From here you are able to see how quickly your app's battery is losing its charge.



5: Take a screenshot

Tap the menu button in the top-right corner of the app. Here you can connect another Wear device and report bugs. Tap Take wearable screenshot to capture your watch's display.



6: Demo cards

From the menu, tap Demo cards. From here you can send Android Wear demo cards to your device to see how they are displayed on your watch's screen, including reminders.

Display information on your watch using Google Now Cards

Get reminders for a range of things



Just like on your phone, Android Wear displays useful information on your watch as interactive Google Now cards. If you're not

familiar with Google Now, it is your built-in personal assistant, which delivers useful information to you based on your online search habits. Cards include reminders to leave on time for an upcoming appointment, sports scores for your favourite team, and traffic alerts for your journey home. If you've ordered a package, you can also receive shipping confirmations, or if you're flying somewhere, you can view your boarding pass on your watch too.

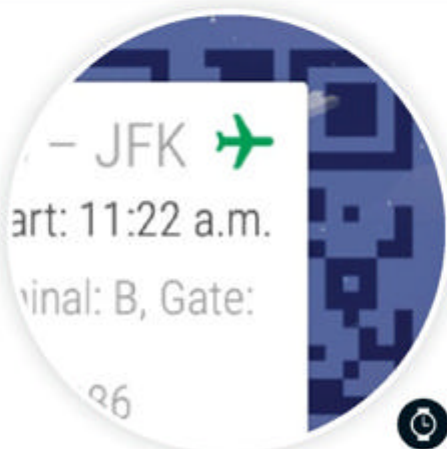
However, the cards you'll see in Android Wear come from your existing Google Now feed. Changes you make to your card settings on your phone will impact what cards you see on Android Wear. To change the cards that show up on your watch, customise the Google Now cards on your phone by launching Google Now. Swipe left on your phone's home screen or open the Google Search app. Tap the three-stripe button to open the side-menu, tap Customise, then select your preferences. See how to get the most out of Google Now cards on your watch via a series of gesture controls.

Google Now cards | Navigate cards on your Android Wear watch



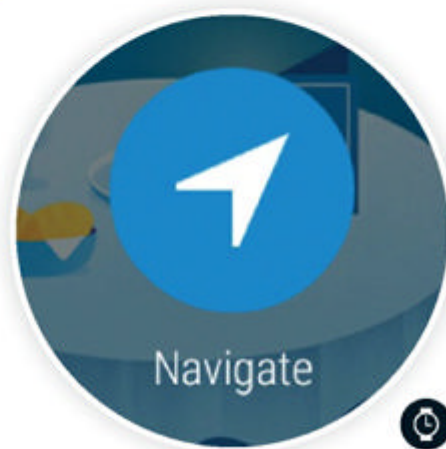
1: View cards

When you receive a new notification, a preview of the card will appear and peek out from the bottom of your screen until you look at it. Swipe upwards to view it.



2: See more

Some cards provide more than a simple alert. For instance, on a weather card, you'll see a four-day forecast. Swipe the card from right to left to see more.



3: Take action

Some cards are interactive and include actions. For example, on the restaurant reservation card, you can trigger a map to its location. Swipe right to left to see your options.

Master the Gmail card

Using Google's official email client, you can archive, reply or open emails on your watch

Read emails

When you receive an email alert on your watch, a portion of the message will appear on screen. Tap the card to view the whole thing. Slide up to scroll through the text

Instant archiving

Swipe right to left on the Gmail card to open actions, the first of which is to archive the email once you've finished with it. Tap the icon to remove the email from your inbox

Reply to emails

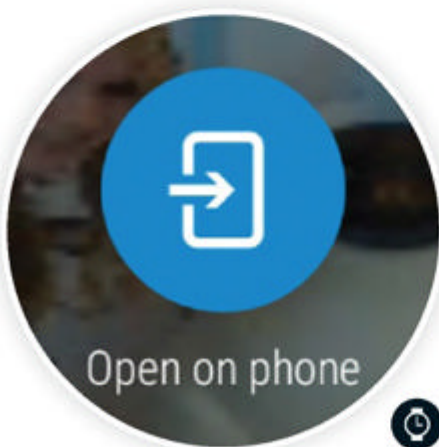
Swipe right to left twice to respond. Tap the icon to dictate your reply by Google Now or swipe down to select from simple prepared responses, such as 'yes' and 'no'

View demo cards

Want to find out what other cards are available? Select Demo cards in the Android Wear app's drop-down menu to see a list of example cards, such as public-emergency alerts and flight boarding cards. Tap any of these and they will appear on your watch. You can then view them and dismiss the cards as you normally would.



“Changes you make to your card settings on your phone will impact what cards you see on Android Wear”



4: Open on phone

There is only so much you can do on your watch so several cards include this option. Tap it and the action, like responding to an email, will appear on your screen when you next unlock it.



5: Remove cards

Once you're done looking at a card, swipe from left to right to get rid of it. Any notifications that you dismiss on your watch will also be dismissed on your phone.



6: Restore cards

Accidentally swipe to the right? If you're quick, you can restore it by swiping upwards. Presented with a countdown, you'll need to tap the undo icon. The card will reappear.

Control your life with voice commands

Android Wear uses voice as the main form of interaction, and you can do a lot more than just search. There are available commands for every situation



As you may well be aware, Android Wear is designed to be navigated using swipes and gestures, but mostly through your

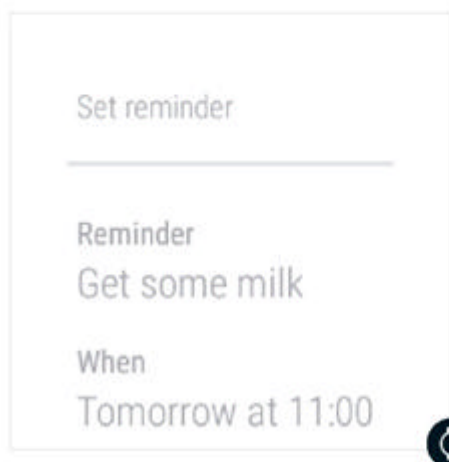
voice. It is always listening, and will follow your requests at any time, no matter how unusual they are. Searching works superbly, of course, but did you know that you can also do almost anything else you need with just your voice and an Android Wear watch?

The built-in software is able to translate what you say, then follow your instructions to undertake proactive tasks for you. Whether you need to jot down a note in a hurry or set an alarm, your Android Wear device will understand and enter the required information for you. Some commands require clarification, but over time you'll wonder how you managed with having to do something as archaic as tap on your phone screen to get things done.

Once you realise the breadth of what is available, and the flexibility your voice commands can offer, it will soon become apparent that your Android Wear watch is about so much more than notifications and telling the time. See what works and you will likely be amazed at what is possible.

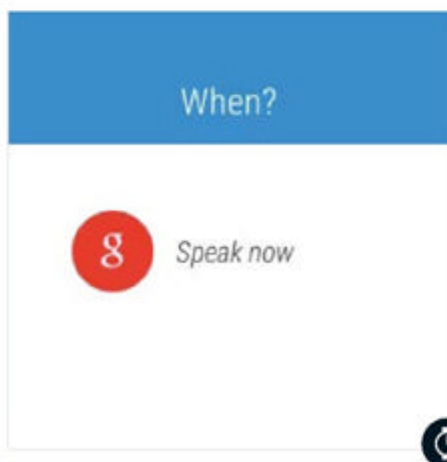
Android Wear

Master Android voice commands



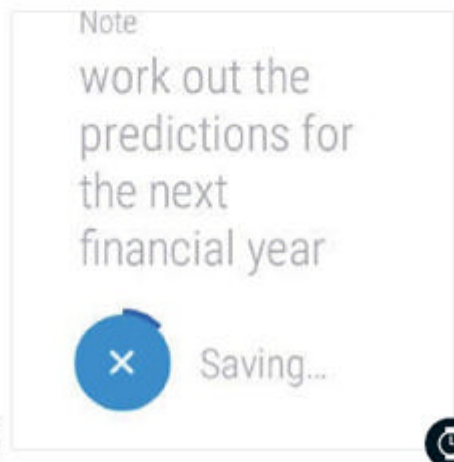
1: Set a reminder

Tap your watch face and say 'Set a reminder' followed by a full description. Android Wear will understand that the description will form the reminder and where to put it.



2: Clarify the command

Some commands will need to clarify specific information, such as times and the day you want something to happen. You can still use your voice to complete the instruction.



3: Write a note

One particularly useful feature is the ability to quickly jot down your thoughts. Say 'Write a note' and then continue speaking until your note is completed. It will then be saved.

A commanding voice

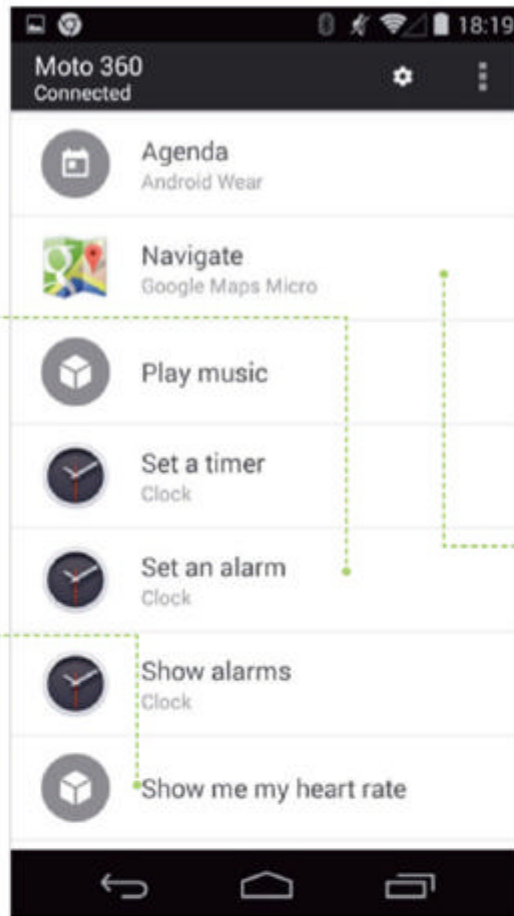
Use quick and simple voice commands to do a variety of things

Manage the basics

Basic tasks are handled beautifully by Android Wear, and are particularly useful when you need to do things at the last minute. You will never forget to set an alarm again

Use the hardware

Some Android Wear devices include heart-rate monitors and other clever hardware features, which can all be enabled with just your voice. Sometimes the phone is not required

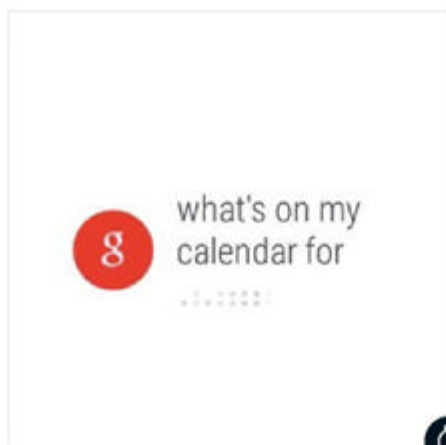


Don't shout!

Android Wear devices have been specifically designed to handle your voice in a variety of situations. Background noise is filtered out and you should not need to shout for your watch to understand what you are saying. Speak in a natural way and it will understand every single word that you say to it, even when you are in noisy places.

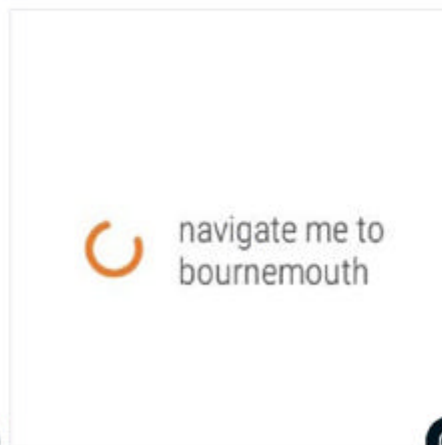
Advanced commands

More advanced commands will be sent to your Android phone so that you can use the big screen and more powerful hardware to complete them. The possibilities are endless



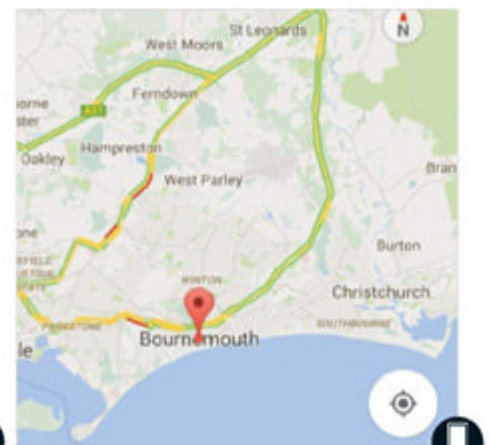
4: Check your schedule

If you need to know how busy your schedule is, you can say something like 'What is on my calendar for tomorrow?' and your calendar entries will be displayed immediately.



5: Go somewhere new

Say 'Navigate me to...' followed by a location and your Android Wear watch will begin the process of finding the destination. It can even take you straight to stored contacts.



6: Use your phone

For navigation instructions, the Android Wear device will send the request to your connected phone so that you can use Maps to navigate to your destination. A perfect connection.

Use apps in Android Wear

Discover and download Android Wear apps, and find out how to use them as alternatives to your smartwatch's default features



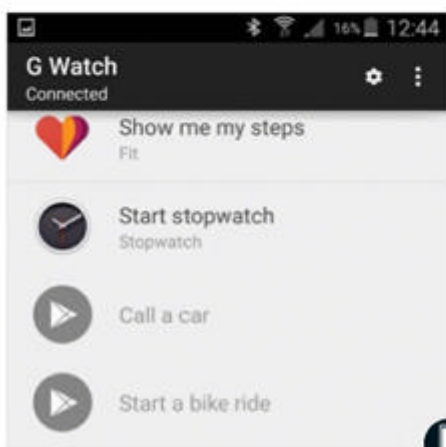
The Play Store opens up almost infinite possibilities for what your smartwatch can do. The good news is that once you've paired

your smartwatch with your phone, all of the apps on the handset will be instantly available on your watch. That is to say, alerts will appear on your wrist automatically, with no special configuration required.

But what about dedicated apps? A growing number of apps have been updated or specially designed to provide something else on your wrist beyond simple notifications. In this tutorial, we'll take you through how to discover new apps for Android Wear on the Google Play Store, install them on your device, launch them on your watch with simple voice commands, and even upgrade your smartwatch's default features with third-party apps.

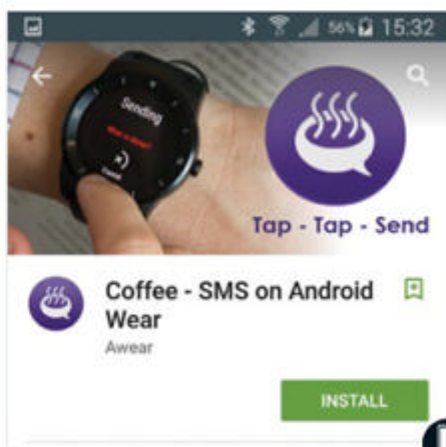
Something to note: while Android Wear watches have little memory – just 4GB – you don't have to worry about wasting storage on app downloads. All apps for your watch (even those that are exclusively designed for watches) are stored on your phone, like any other app. As long as both devices are paired, these apps can be instantly accessed via your watch.

Android Wear Download and launch Android Wear apps



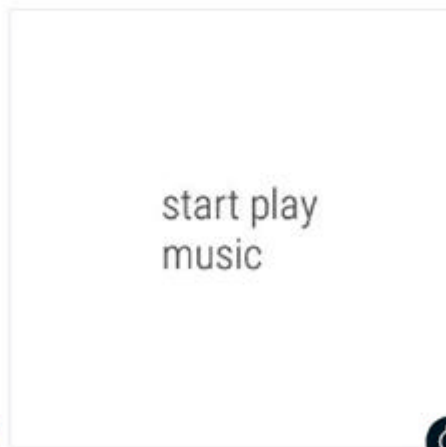
1: Find your apps

Scroll to the bottom of the Android Wear app on your handset. Tap 'Browse suggested apps' to view a gallery of smartwatch-friendly apps on the Google Play Store, grouped by type.



2: Download new apps

When viewing a full profile, install an Android Wear app as you would any other app. Tap Install to add it to your device or, if it costs, tap the green button listing the price.



3: Start an app

Once you've downloaded an app, it will be saved to your phone, but instantly available on your watch. To open an app, launch Google Now, say 'Start' and state the name of the app.

Set up the default apps

Replace basic features with the apps of your choice by reassigning associations

When new apps are not appearing on your watch

First, check to see if you have Bluetooth enabled on your phone. Apps won't sync between your phone and your watch otherwise. If both devices are correctly paired, open the Android Wear app, and tap on the cog icon to open Settings. Scroll to the bottom of the menu and tap Resync apps. This will resync all available apps.

Open Android Wear

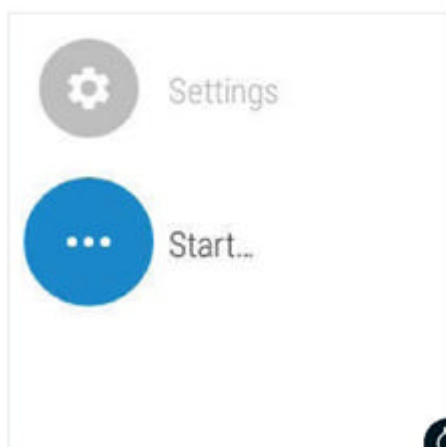
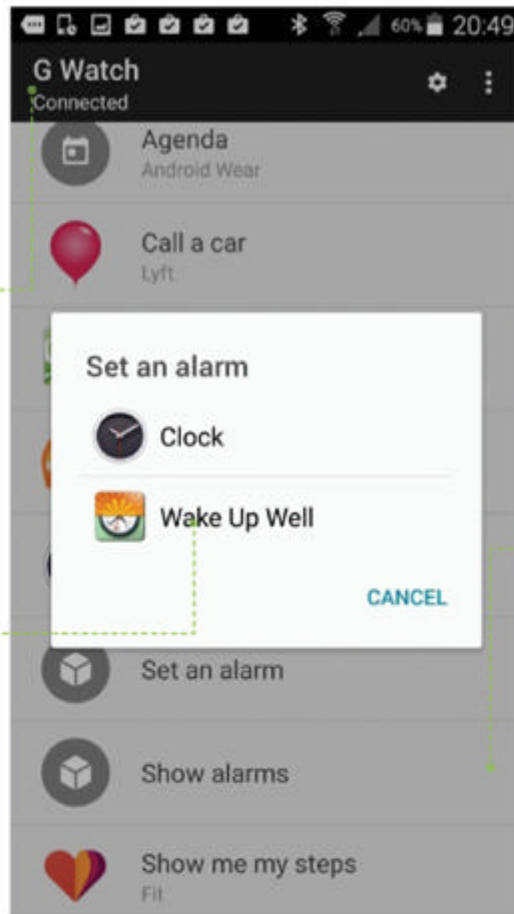
When you use a voice command such as "set an alarm" on your smartwatch, Android Wear uses whichever app is currently associated with that action. To change associations, open the Android Wear app on your phone

Select a command

Scroll to the bottom of the Android Wear app and, between the watch faces and the Browse Suggest Apps blue bar, you'll see a list of voice commands you can give your watch. Tap the command that you want to reassign to a different app

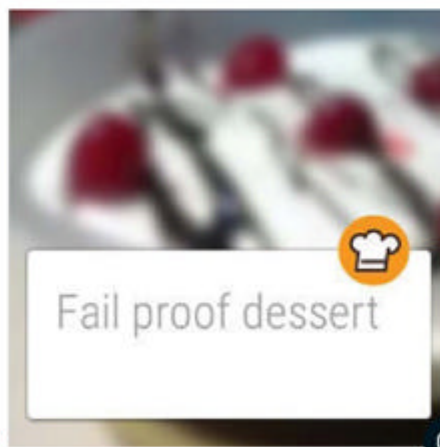
Assign an app

A pop-up will appear displaying all compatible apps for this command on your phone. If you don't see the one you want, check that it is properly installed and synced with the watch. If it is listed, tap on it and the process is complete



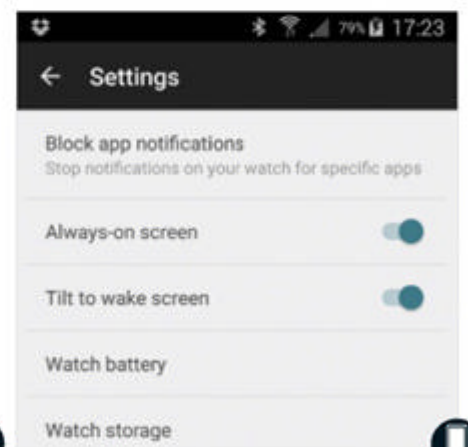
4: Manually open an app

If you'd prefer not to use voice commands to open apps, launch Google Now, then scroll up to view a list of options. Tap Start... to view the app drawer, where all your apps will be listed.



5: Launch from phone

Some of your phone apps will have new tricks now you have a smartwatch. Android Wear features kick in as and when necessary, rather than appearing as an option in the Start menu.



6: Set up notifications

If there are apps you'd rather not receive notifications for on your wrist, open Settings in the Android Wear app, tap Block app notifications, and select the app.

Track what apps are on your wear

It's easy to lose track of what's installing on your Wear device and when, but Wear Apps Tracker makes it much easier



Android Wear has a very clever way of managing the apps on the watch. Apps are downloaded from the Play Store, effectively

embedded in a regular Android app, and then silently installed by the main Android Wear application itself onto your device. The whole process is seamless, which provides a great user experience – there's no indication at all that apps are being installed, updated or removed, it just 'happens'. This is likely to be the best way for the process to work for regular users, but for power users it can be a bit frustrating not knowing exactly what's going on. Even for regular users, the process can be a little confusing, as after a new app or watchface is installed, it can take a few minutes for it to be synced over to the watch and available for selection – and when it is, there's no indication that this has happened.

Wear Apps Tracker gets around this problem by adding this indicator. In the same beautifully simple vein, it's surprisingly hard to know exactly what is installed on your Android Wear device. You can trawl the installed apps list

on your phone and try to work out which apps have Wear counterparts, but it's far from obvious. Wear Apps Manager is the answer to this quirk – it lists apps installed on the device itself and gives you a host of options for managing them.

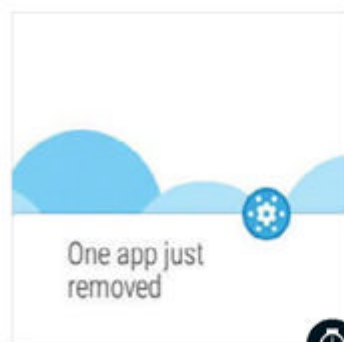


Sharing the apps

If you would like to share a link to an Android Wear app, you can do so by clicking into the app in Wear Apps Manager and then pressing the share button.

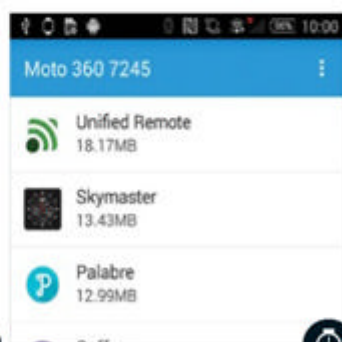
Wear Apps Tracker

Be more in control of your Wear apps



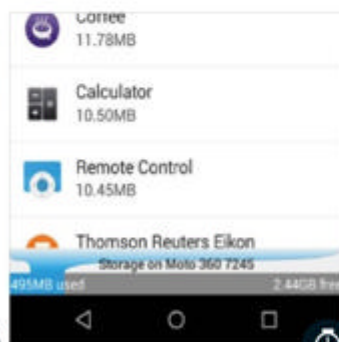
1: Check notifications

By default, the Android Wear app silently installs, uninstalls and updates apps on your watch. Wear Apps Tracker shows a notification each time this happens.



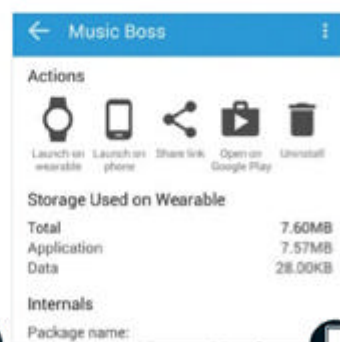
2: See what is installed

Wear Apps Manager runs on your phone and allows you to see which apps are installed on your Android Wear device. Apps can be easily uninstalled directly from this screen.



3: View free space

Wear Apps Manager also displays the amount of storage space used on your Wear device and the total amount available. Apps can be sorted by their total size.



4: Check permissions

Clicking into an app in Wear Apps Manager shows details about the app, including the permissions requested and a link to view on the Play Store for further details.

Master Android Wear quick settings

Switch between modes and adjust settings with these simple smartwatch shortcuts



Quick settings are an important feature because they give you instant access to the adjustments you will probably need to make

on a daily basis. Whether you are running out of battery and want to turn your watch's screen off or are in an important meeting and need to mute all sounds, with quick settings everything can be managed with just a couple of unobtrusive taps.

They effectively replicate many of the settings that are available as standard but are much closer to the surface and don't require multiple taps and swipes of the screen to use them.

Quick settings weren't included in the original Android Wear operating system so if you can't follow this tutorial's instructions, make sure your device is fully updated. You can check this by going into your watch's in-depth Settings menu and selecting the About option. This will display what Android Wear version your watch is running. Scroll down further and



System updates will be listed. Tap this and any available updates will be installed.

Quick settings really do change the entire experience and will make your watch more practical to use all of the time, and let's face it, that's what we all want from Android Wear!

Open additional settings

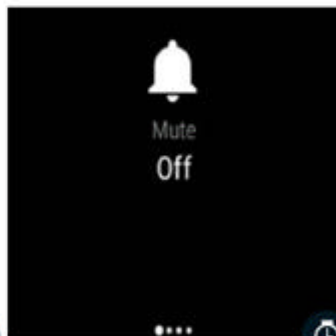
If quick settings don't offer the control you want, scroll through the quick setting options until the very end. Tap on the cog icon for a quick shortcut to Android Wear's Settings menu.

Quick settings Toggle settings with a tap



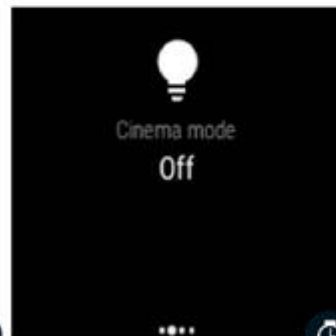
1: Swipe downwards

If you swipe down, you will access quick settings. You'd normally tap the face to see the full list. Though, once you've used this method a few times, it will become simple.



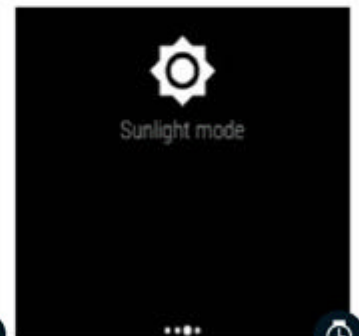
2: Toggle Mute Mode

The first screen you will see shows the Mute option. Simply tap to turn the mute on and then tap again to turn it off. This is very useful when you need to stop all sounds quickly.



3: Turn off screen

Swipe left on the Mute screen to bring up the option for Cinema mode. Tap to turn it on, at which point the screen will stay off for as long as you need it to.



4: Brighten the screen

The next left swipe takes you to the Sunlight mode. This makes screen become very bright momentarily so you can see the screen in bright light. It dims again to save battery.

Adjust your smartwatch's settings

Take control of your watch's finer features by diving into the settings options – both on your watch and in the Android Wear app



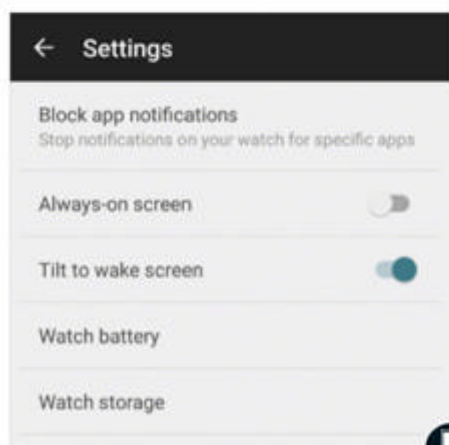
Just like your phone, tablet or any other smart device, you don't have to settle for the default setup of how it works. You can

customise it to your preferences by exploring the settings options. However, because of your watch's limited screen size, these controls are split between those you can easily adjust on your watch, and those that are a bit more complex or that you're less likely to use on a regular basis. The latter settings can be adjusted on your paired phone, via the Android Wear app.

If you're not sure where to find the settings menu in the Android Wear app, tap the cog icon next to the three-dot drop-down menu. On your watch, you can open settings by commanding Google Now, or navigating there via the list of options that appear when you scroll upwards from the Google Now screen. Alternatively, you can also find a shortcut to the settings menu in the Quick Settings. In all cases, once again, just look for the cog symbol.

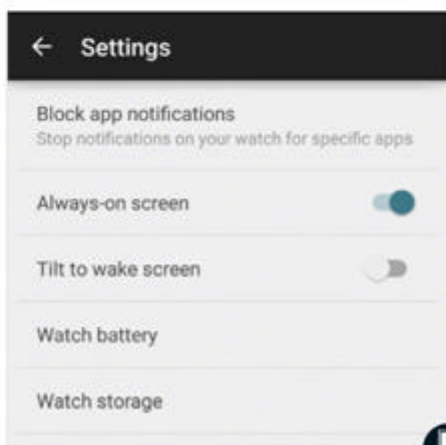
Whether you want to turn off all notifications temporarily during a flight, or block individual apps from being able to send you notifications at all, read on to begin.

Android Wear Manage settings in the Android Wear app



1: Turn off screen

By default, your watch will always display the time. Tap Always-on screen in Settings so the line turns from green to grey. Now the screen will only turn on when you tap it.



2: Deactivate the light

When you tilt your wrist, your watch will instantly light up. However, if you tap 'Tilt to wake screen' in Settings so the line turns grey, this will be deactivated.



3: Check battery life

View how much power your watch has left by pulling on the watch home screen, but select Watch battery in the app's Settings menu, and you can see a more detailed breakdown.

Tweak settings on your watch

Tap the home screen and scroll downwards until you reach a cog symbol to view a range of settings on your watch



Find Bluetooth devices

If you've saved music to your watch, select Bluetooth devices in Settings to connect it to wireless headphones. This way you can enjoy music on your jog, but leave your phone at home

Adjust brightness

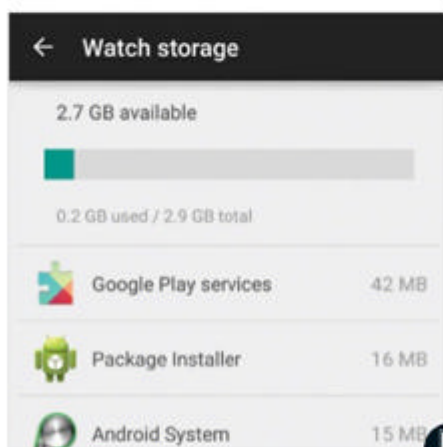
Select this option from your watch's Settings to set the brightness level. You will be given the option to select from 1 (darkest) to 6 (brightest) by sliding up or down

Aeroplane mode

If you're on a plane, you can select this option in your watch's Settings to turn off the watch's wireless or mobile data connection. Tap it again to turn connection back on

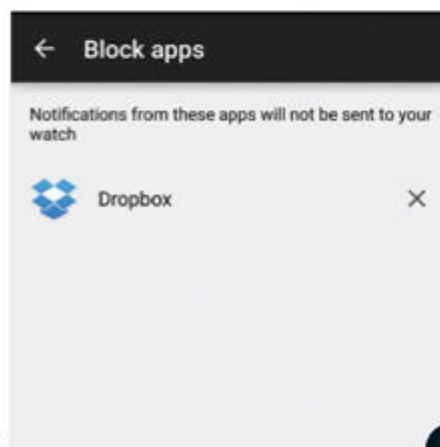
Reset your smartwatch

If your watch seems to be running a little slow, try a factory reset. Over time, it may have accumulated files. Select Reset device from the Settings on your watch to completely wipe all data stored on the watch. Be warned: this data includes active notifications, fitness data and your preferences. After the reset, you will have to pair your watch and phone again.



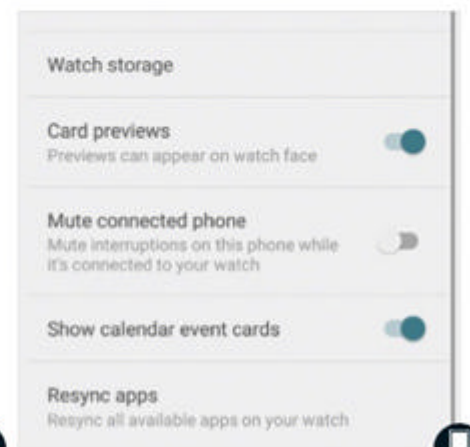
4: Monitor memory

Tap Watch storage to find out how much RAM is available on your watch. Organised by size, you will be able to see which apps are using the most memory.



5: Block notifications

To stop alerts from species apps appearing on your watch, tap Block App Notifications in Settings. Press the + symbol and select the app. Press X next to the app's name to unblock.



6: Restore phone alerts

Usually, notifications on your phone redirect to your watch when devices are paired, but tap Mute connected phone so the line turns from grey, and your phone will continue to buzz.

Set up Google Fit for easy fitness tracking

Now you are able to view all of the health data that you have collected on your watch straight on your smartphone

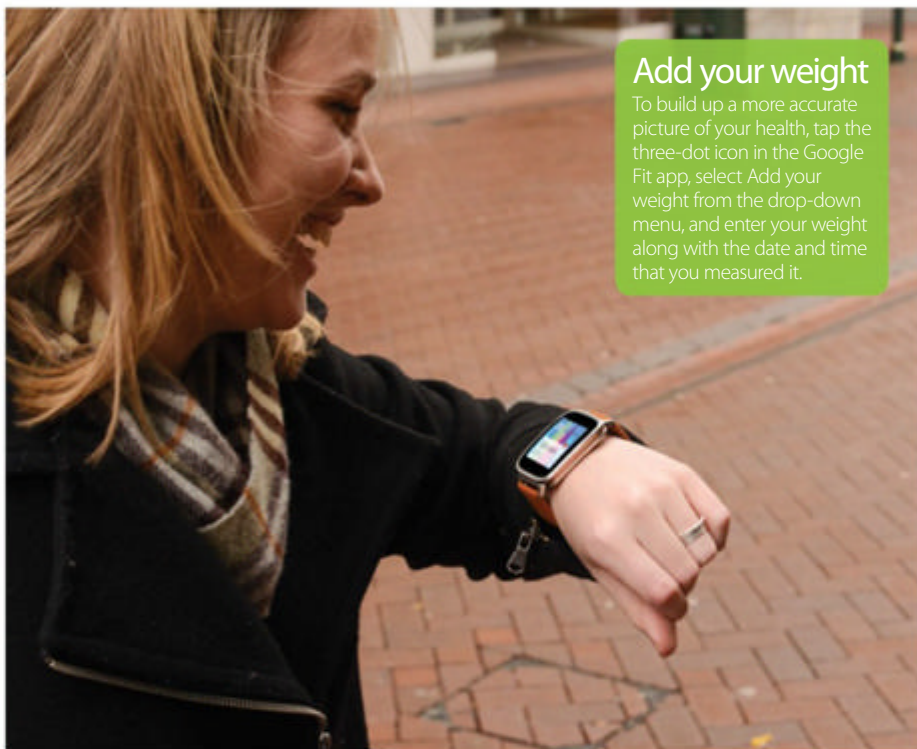


Google Fit was launched alongside Android Wear as a way to make the most of this wearable device and its built-in activity

sensors. The app is built in to your watch and displays the number of steps you have taken in a day, helps you set goals for daily steps, and (depending on your Android Wear mode) monitors your heart rate. You can view this as a daily summary on the Fit card, or open Fit at any time by saying 'show me my steps' to Google Now.

However, the limited real-estate of your watch screen can make it somewhat of a chore to view all of the data, endlessly scrolling through reams of information. Fortunately, there is also a Google Fit app for your phone. The only downside is that it is pre-installed on very few apps, so you will need to download it from Google Play and set it up. We will show you how.

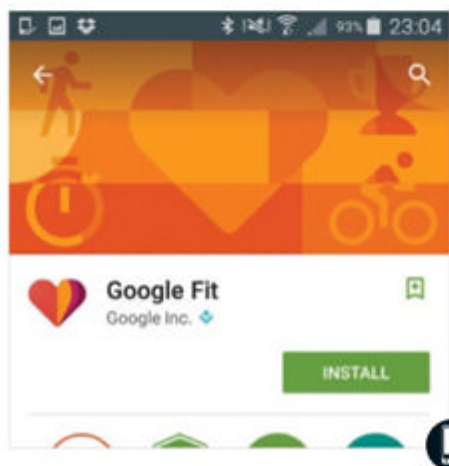
"You must download it from Google Play and set it up"



Add your weight

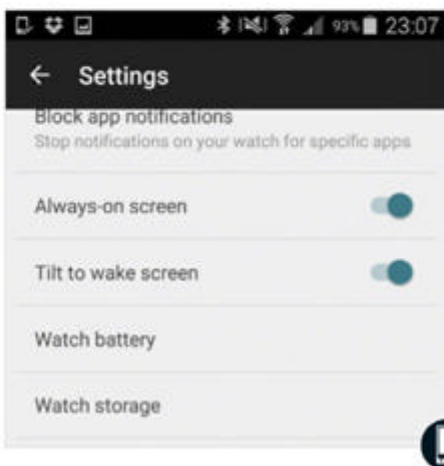
To build up a more accurate picture of your health, tap the three-dot icon in the Google Fit app, select Add your weight from the drop-down menu, and enter your weight along with the date and time that you measured it.

Google Fit View your fitness data on your phone



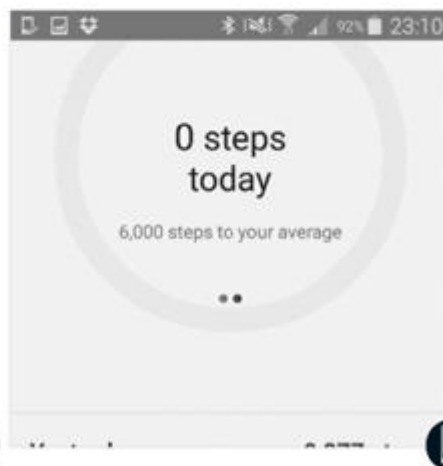
1: Install Google Fit

If Google Fit isn't pre-installed on your phone, search for it on the Play Store. From the search results, tap to view the app's profile, then tap Install to download it for free.



2: Resync Android Wear

If you open the Google Fit app on your phone, it's unlikely to automatically have imported your fitness data. To do this, go to the Android Wear's settings and select Resync apps.



3: View fitness data

All the fitness data from your watch should now sync with the app on your phone. Viewed on a larger screen, it's much easier to view your pedometer history.

Download new faces

There is a huge selection of third-party watch faces available for your Android Wear device, and all easy to find



Android Wear devices come with many watch faces personated, but it is likely that these will not cater for everyone. We all have

different tastes and, as such, more choice can only be a good thing, which is why the availability of third-party faces is such a bonus

We will show you where to find new third-party watch faces, and also how to install them, but if you have ever installed an app, this process should be second nature. Google has cleverly made it possible to install a new face on the watch without ever needing to touch anything other than your phone, so the actual watch installation is invisible throughout. All you have to do is select a face that you like the look of, tap 'Install' and the process will complete as normal.

The only potential downside of such easy availability is that the temptation to install many faces may be too much. To be fair, they are not big in terms of the memory they use up, but with any device where the memory is slightly limited and where battery is of paramount importance, we would suggest finding a few



“The availability of faces is such a bonus”

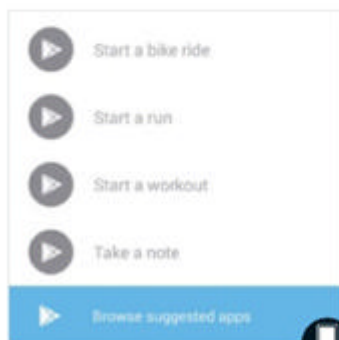
that you like and sticking with them. There is, however, no reason why you could not wear a new watch face on your Android Wear device every day of the year with so many available, and that is one of the major benefits of this very clever miniature Android experience.

Mind the battery

In theory, you should not see any battery drain from a new watch face, but if you do, it could be worth uninstalling it. Some offer many features that may have an impact.

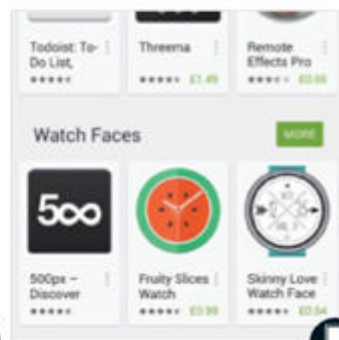
Android Wear

Wear any watch face you like



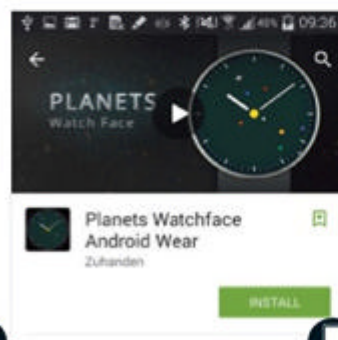
1: Go to Google Play

Open Android Wear on your phone and scroll down the screen until you see 'Browse suggested apps'. Tap it to be taken to Google Play where you'll find many Android Wear apps.



2: Find the faces

Scroll past Featured Apps, then tap 'More' in the Watch Faces section. There are many third-party faces on offer; some are free, whereas some require payment.



3: Install a face

When you have found a watch face that you like, tap the install button and it will install. If your watch is connected to your phone, it will now be available on the watch.



4: Activate the face

On your Android Wear device, you can follow the standard process to change the watch face and the one you have just installed should be available to select.

Change your watch face every single day

You can change the watch face on your Android Wear device in three simple steps. Most Android Wear watches come with a wide selection of faces to try



If you are not going to wear a traditional watch anymore, in favour of an Android Wear watch, you will likely want the familiarity

of a face that shows you the time at a glance, and preferably one that offers a bit of style.

In this tutorial we will show you how to quickly change the watch face on your Android Wear device; be warned, it may become habitual, as so many faces are included within the software.

The process is incredibly simple, so there is no reason why you cannot wear a different face every day, but it may also be preferable to use ambient mode to save on battery power. This lessens the appeal of the face slightly because the second hand will likely be removed from the display, but when you consider the main aim of an Android Wear watch, which is to keep you informed throughout the day, it is a worthy trade off. It's time to start changing faces.

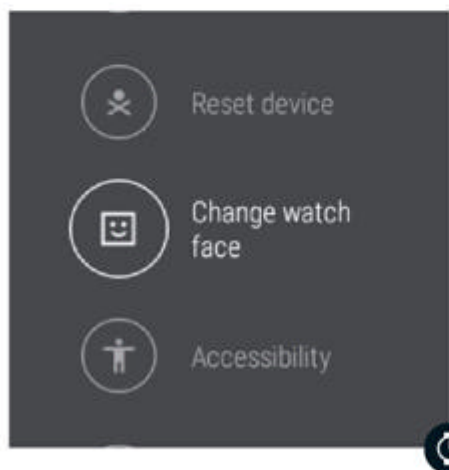
"It may become habitual, as so many faces are included"

Ambient faces

In Settings you can set the face to display as 'Ambient', which will improve the battery performance of your watch. The second hand may disappear, but it is well worth it.

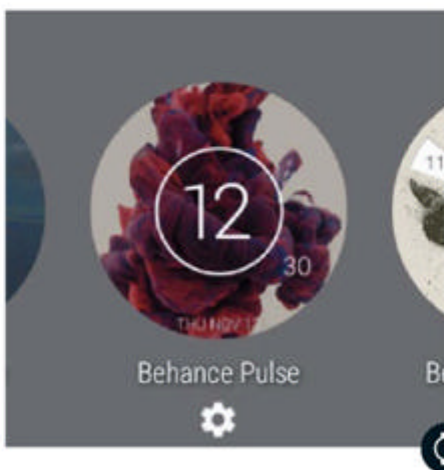


Android Wear Quickly change your watch face



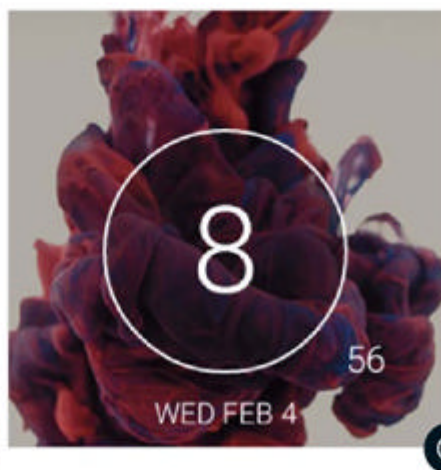
1: Go to settings

Tap the watch face and scroll to Settings. Now scroll down until you see 'Change watch face' and tap it to proceed to the next step. You may find yourself doing this quite often.



2: Choose a face

All of the installed watch faces will now be displayed in a horizontal row, which you can scroll through. When you find one that looks right for you, tap it and it will be set.



3: View your new face

Your chosen watch face is now active and you can spend some time deciding if it is right for you. If you are not convinced, simply follow the process again and choose a new one.

Track your Android Wear's battery usage

Get smart about your battery usage on your Android Wear device with detailed information on battery drain on the Wear Battery Stats app



If you're interested in finding out about how your Android Wear device is using up battery power then the Wear Battery Stats app is

all you need. Within the app you'll be able to see how and when your Wear device's battery is being drained. It will display information on what apps are costing you the most power, and at what times of the day you are losing most of your battery's energy.

There is no in-built Android app for looking at battery stats on your Android Wear device, so this app can come in very useful when you want to keep an eye on battery usage.

Within the app itself you can view graphs of detailed information about battery usage. On your watch, Wear Battery Stats will display your current battery status and, when opened, will display a graph of information showing the history of your latest battery charge. Follow the tutorial to find out how.

"View graphs of detailed information about battery usage"

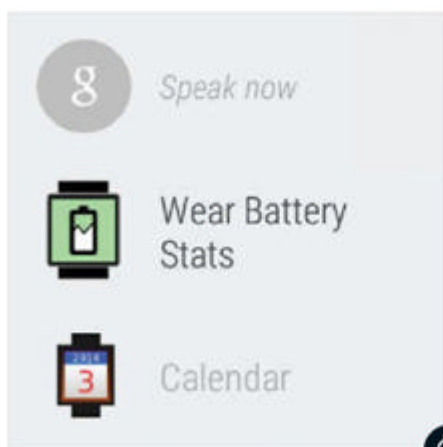


Settings and options

Open Wear Battery Stats on your Android device. Tap the menu button then tap Settings to adjust notifications for your Wear device including when you are notified about your battery's current charge level.

Wear Battery Stats

Check your battery status



1: Build data

Once the Wear Battery Stats app has been installed, wait a few hours for it to collect data on your battery usage, then open the app on your Wear device from the start menu.



2: View battery history

The Battery History graph will give you a rather detailed look at your battery's activity since you started logging its statistics using Wear Battery Stats.



3: View battery discharge rate

Tap on the screen to reveal the discharge rate of your battery. This graph will detail the time it took for your battery to drain and at what time of the day it ran out of power.

Use a mini launcher

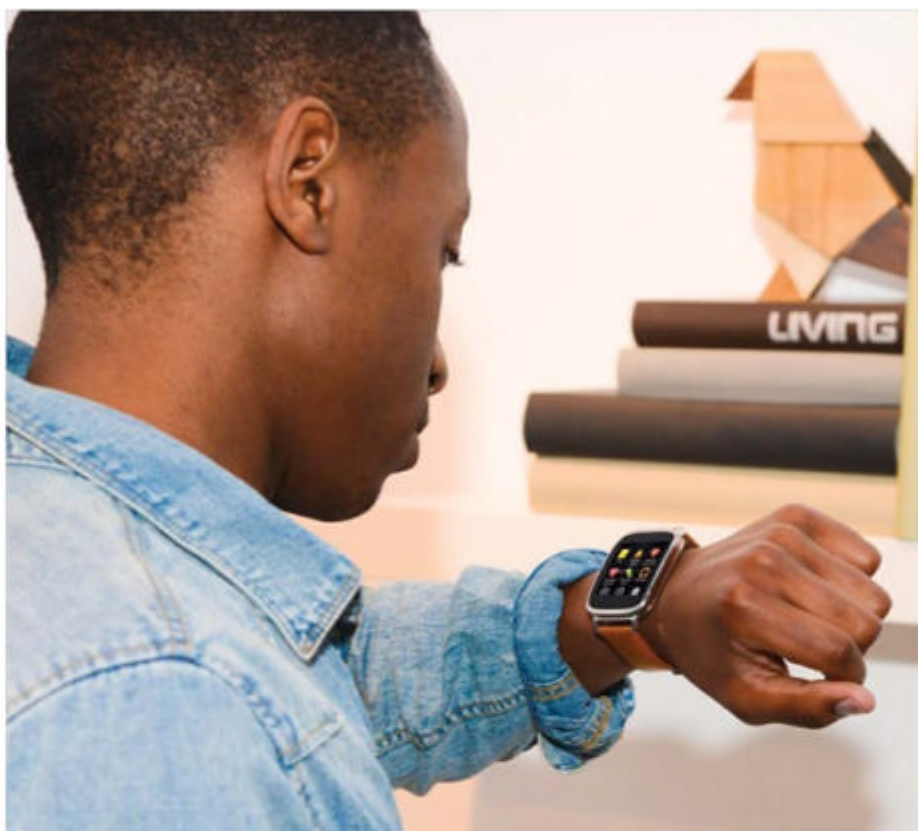
Wear Mini Launcher gives your Android Wear device an icon-driven Android experience that will feel very familiar



An Android Wear device imposes a few natural limitations because of the smaller screen size and the fact that you are unable to impart

exact touches on any area of the screen, but you can still use swipes and gestures to get things done. It feels like an addition to an Android phone rather than a replica of the traditional Android experience, but it is easily possible to make your Android Wear usage more natural and familiar than it is normally. With the installation of an app called Wear Mini Launcher you can bring back all that you understand from Android and completely change the experience for the better, or at the very least give yourself some more options for how you interact with your watch.

We will show you how to download and install Wear Mini Launcher, and then give you some pointers regarding customising it to your needs and using it on a daily basis. It won't take long to understand, thanks to the familiar interface it offers, and potentially it could become your main tool for interacting with your watch, opening apps and so on. It is one



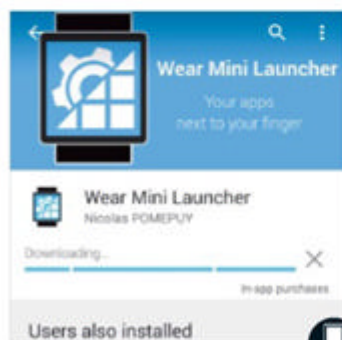
of the very best examples of a third-party app that offers a glimpse of what is possible now in Android Wear and what we can expect in the future. It's smooth in operation, very practical and will save you a lot of time every single day. It's time to launch some apps.

The trick

The app advises to 'slide from the upper-left corner' to activate the mini launcher, but in our experience try sliding from just above the left-hand edge. This works best.

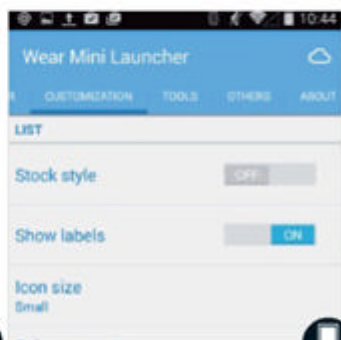
Wear Mini Launcher

Launch apps from your wrist



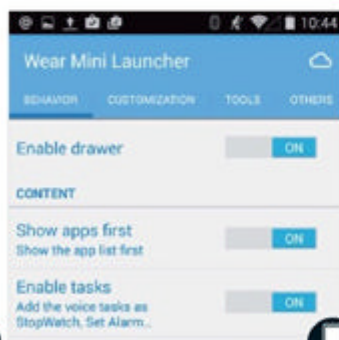
1: Install the app

Go to Google Play and search for 'Wear Mini Launcher'. Download it and install as normal on your phone. It will be sent straight to your connected Android Wear device.



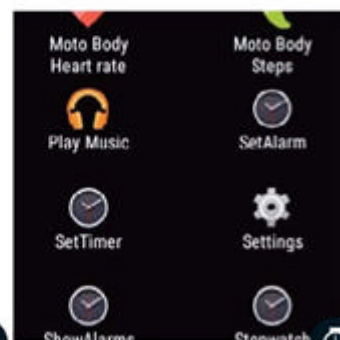
2: Customise the display

Tap the 'Customization' tab at the top in Wear Mini Launcher on your phone and run through the various options. Adjust the columns, labels and icon sizes with ease.



3: Go a step further

Tap 'Behavior' to explore the advanced functionality available. Haptic feedback is useful, as is the 'Large handle' option. Both help when opening the launcher.



4: Launch apps

You can launch apps and settings using the Wear Mini Launcher on your watch. It could quickly become your default tool. Increasing the icon sizes will be beneficial.

Keep track of your phone at all times

With a simple app and an Android Wear device, you can be alerted the moment your phone is not in range. It works automatically and takes little effort



Losing your phone, even for a brief moment, can bring a sense of panic to anyone who uses their beloved mobile device every day.

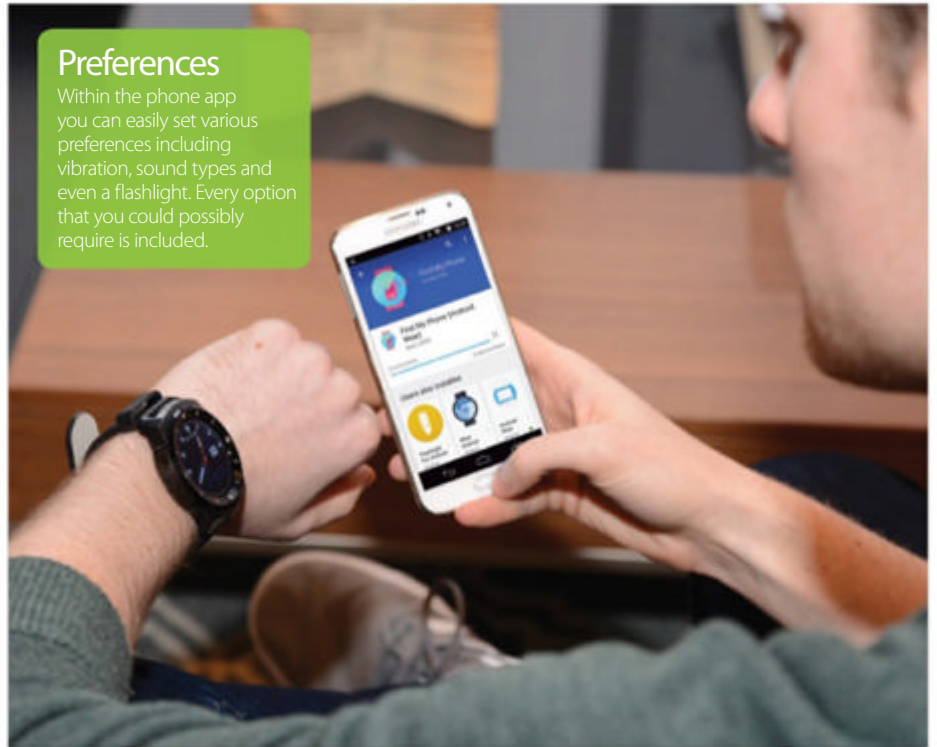
The Find My Phone app brings another use to your Android Wear device, which is to offer the peace of mind that when you misplace your phone, you will automatically be alerted to its whereabouts via an audible and visual alarm. All you have to do is tap your watch screen to sound the alarm, which means that you always have a 'finder' on your wrist to protect your investment, and in our tests the system works very well indeed.

If you follow our simple tutorial and install the app, you will have to do nothing more than tap your screen to always know where your phone is, which makes it a perfect and free addition to any Android Wear watch that could save you a lot of money. Look after your phone every day and it will look after you.

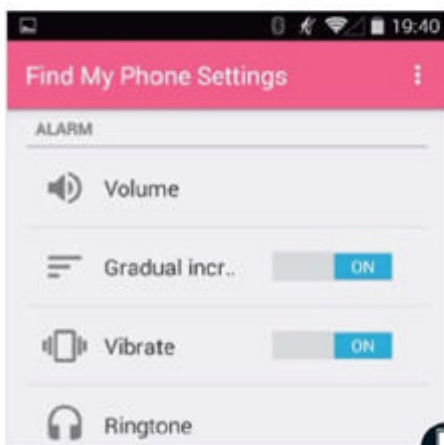
"The Find My Phone app brings another use to your device"

Preferences

Within the phone app you can easily set various preferences including vibration, sound types and even a flashlight. Every option that you could possibly require is included.

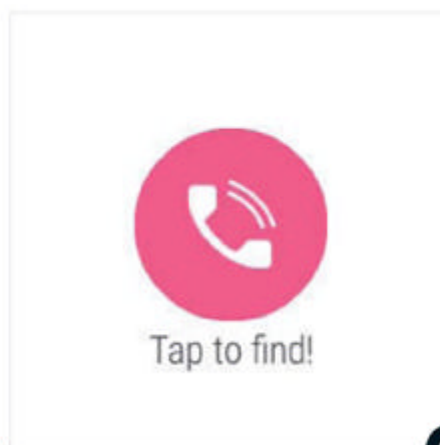


Find My Phone Monitor your phone's whereabouts



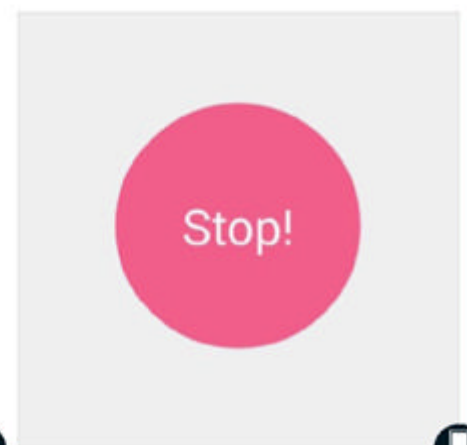
1: Install the apps

Search for 'Find My Phone (Android Wear)' in Google Play and install the app. Now take some time to check the preferences on the phone and adjust them to your requirements.



2: Tap to find

Locate and open the Find My Phone app on your Android Wear device. You'll be presented with one button to tap. When you tap this button the magic will happen immediately.



3: Stop the alarm

Your phone will sound an alarm and present a large pink icon on the screen. When you tap this, the sound will stop as it proves that you have indeed found your misplaced phone.

Search using your voice

There is no better way to communicate with your Android Wear device than through your voice. The system is incredibly accurate for quick searches



Voice on Android Wear is technically the main way to communicate with the watch and it works very well indeed.

You can use voice for a variety of tasks, but search could soon become the main reason for you to wear such a device on your wrist all of the time. You can search for establishments and specific locations nearby, at which point Google Maps on your phone will take you there. You can ask for factual information and also check conversions and anything else that you need to know at that particular time. The fact that Google is behind the software, and because it is the master of search, means that the experience will surprise you every time by its ability to recognise what you are saying and then to present the exact results that you need. It is all unnervingly accurate and the perfect feature to use on any Android Wear device no matter where you are.

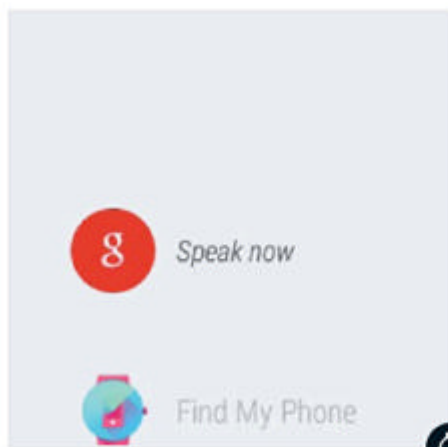
“You can search for establishments and specific locations”



Lose 'OK Google'

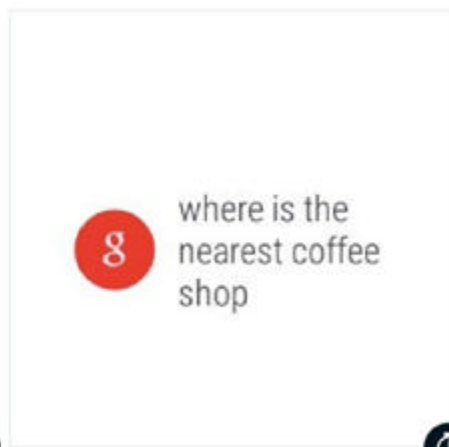
'OK Google' is shown on the watch face every time you turn on your Android Wear device until you use it a few times. It will then not appear again and leave the face clean.

Voice search Search for information anywhere



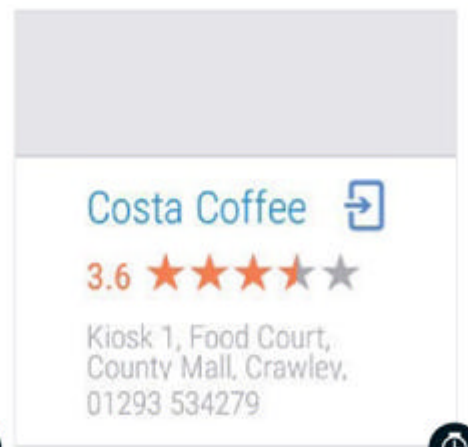
1: Tap and speak

Tap the screen of your Android Wear device and you will see 'Speak now' appear. Simply say "OK Google" and ask for anything in natural language to get an immediate result.



2: Find something fast

You can, for example, ask where the nearest coffee shop is, and the watch will visually show what you have said so that you can check the recognition. It works almost every time.



3: Ask to receive

The results appear, which you can scroll through to find the most suitable one for you. Some show review ratings and an icon that lets you navigate to the location on your phone.

Set an alarm on your watch

Android Wear allows you to set an alarm on your watch, so you will never miss an appointment or be late for work again



Alarms on Android Wear are a little bit different to some of the other features. Typically, when you use functions such as reminders,

Wear is just used as a remote to configure them on your phone or tablet.

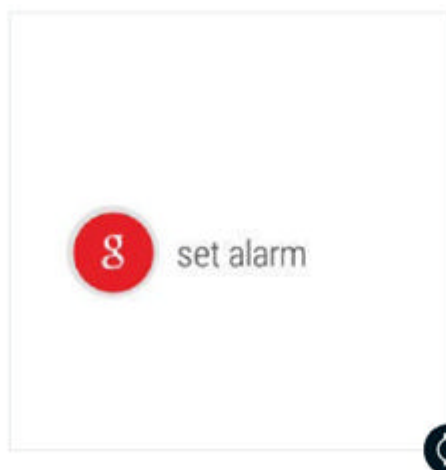
With alarms, the reverse applies – the alarms do not appear in the main Clock app on your device, but rather they are set on the watch itself. Because the current generation of Wear devices doesn't have speakers, this means that it is effectively a silent vibrating alarm being set – something that is worth bearing in mind.

Third-party alternatives are available, which change this behaviour should you prefer the alarm to sound either on your phone or on both devices, with the latter often allowing you to silence the phone from your watch. Alarms set on Android Wear can either be one-off alarms or can be set to repeat on chosen days of the week.

“Alarms can either be one-off alarms or set to repeat”

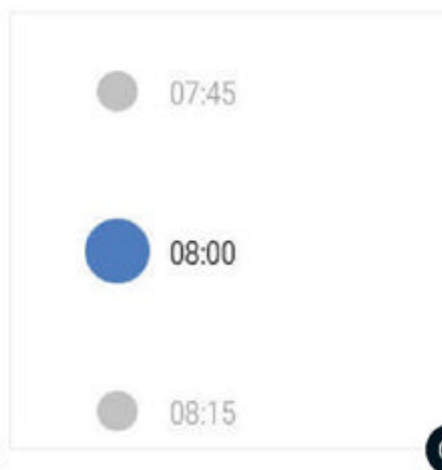


Alarm Clock Set an alarm



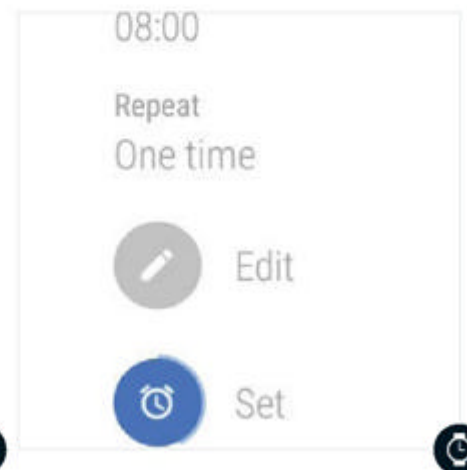
1: Start your alarm

To start setting an alarm, wake your watch and say 'OK Google' followed by 'Set an alarm'. After doing this you will then continue to specify a time for the alarm.



2: Specify a time

On Android Wear, the time for an alarm is set using a scrolling list. Select the time you require and if you don't need a repeat, just press the 'Set' button.



3: Specify repeat

Repeating alarms can also be configured via Android Wear – after choosing a time, press the 'Edit' button rather than 'Set' and tick the days you want the alarm to repeat.

Take a screenshot of your watch

Capturing the screen of your Android Wear device for use in a variety of circumstances is not difficult at all. Your phone does all of the hard work



"You will not be affecting the security of your watch or causing stability problems"

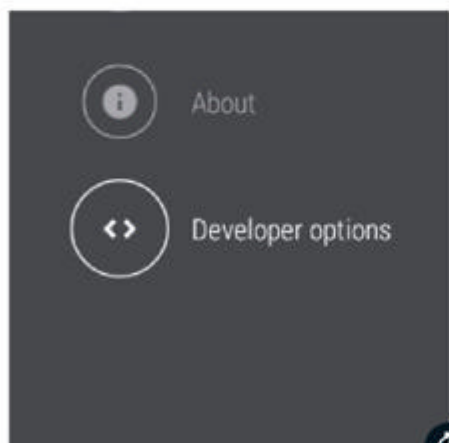


You may not need to capture screenshots of your Android Wear device often, but it is a technique that has proved to be very

popular on phones and tablets. They can be used when you have a technical problem and need to share evidence with a support team or even to show off your preferred interface with others, and you may find that you start taking them a lot more often than you expected.

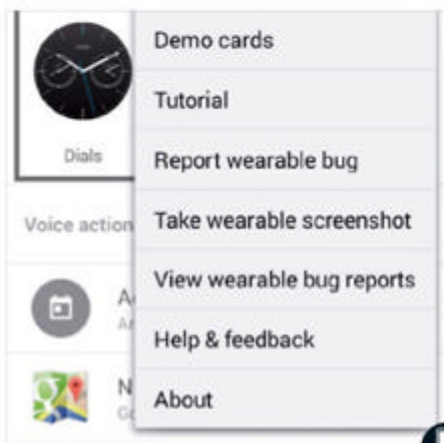
Developer Options have to be enabled (see page 135), and while this may feel like it is opening the device up to areas that you would not normally require, if you just use them for screenshots alone you will not be affecting the security of your watch or causing stability problems. Your phone will use the Android Wear app to capture the current Android Wear screen and will initiate a new email that can be sent immediately so that you can share the image or edit it as required. This method highlights how much of the work your phone or tablet does when it comes to Android Wear watches, but it also shows how well the two can work together wirelessly to help you get things done. This is a simple process that can be understood in minutes.

Android Wear Capture Android Wear screenshots



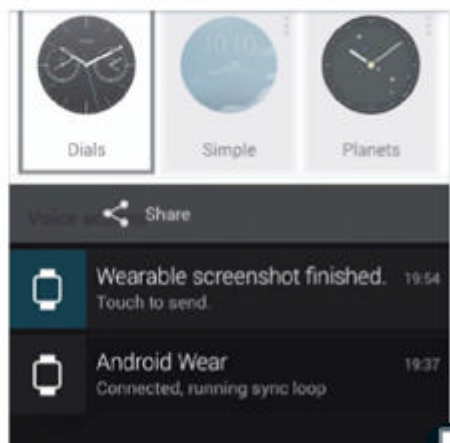
1: Enable the options

Enable Developer Options on your Android Wear device to be able to take screenshots. You can do this by tapping the Build number in Settings>About multiple times.



2: Select from the menu

When you open the Android Wear app on your phone and tap the menu icon, you will see a 'Take wearable screenshot' option within the list. This is all you need to proceed.



3: Read the notification

Tap the option quoted in step 2 and after a few seconds a new notification will appear at the top of the screen. Pull the bar down to see 'Wearable screenshot finished' listed.

Quick Android Wear screenshots

Snap a shot at any time with a couple of taps on your phone

Send the screen

You can now pull down the notification bar at the top and tap the screenshot bar. It will open the Gmail app ready for you to add an email address and send the new email

Square or round?

Even if the watch you are using is round, the saved screenshot will still be square. Round devices, such as the LG G Watch R will leave a black circle on the final image

Save drafts

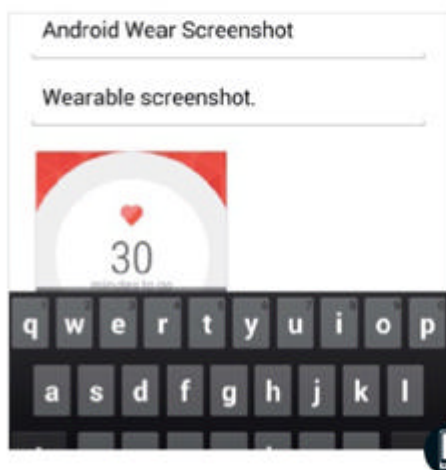
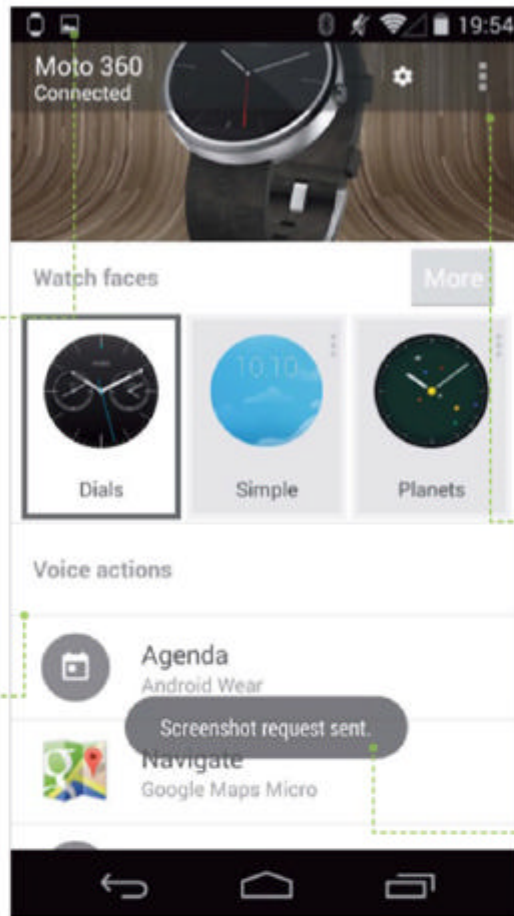
Sometimes the emails will not always send, particularly if many are taken close together, so you can just hit the back button in the Gmail app and the screenshots will be saved in Gmail drafts for you to pick up from a desktop PC or other device. This works every single time and is a useful workaround if you have problems sending them normally.

Use the menu

Tap this icon and then 'Take wearable screenshot' at which point the image will be grabbed immediately. Once you start using this process, it will feel perfectly natural

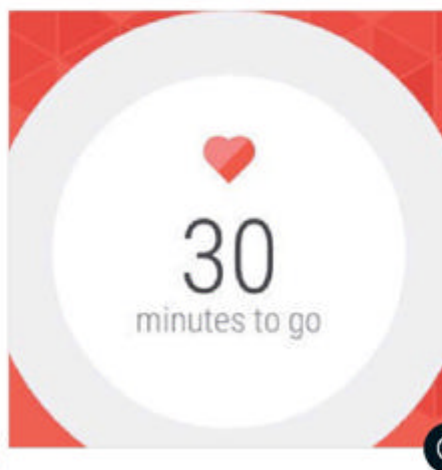
The confirmation

This alert will appear as soon as the screenshot has been captured and it has been added to a draft email in the Gmail app. No other notifications will be shown on screen



4: Send the email

When you tap the notification you will then be taken to the Gmail app, which shows an email ready to send with the screenshot file included. Enter an email address and tap 'Send'.



5: Save the screenshot

You can now save the screenshot from the received email, which will show exactly what was on the Android Wear screen at the time you took it. They are quite low resolution.



6: A square screen

Even if your Android Wear device is round, the resultant screenshot will be square because this is the natural environment for the software. Some edges may sometimes be cut off.



Lifestyle & Productivity

Android Wear can bring a whole new level to your every day life, keeping you informed of reminders, sending emails and more

- 052** **Make a call on the phone**
Contact people by starting a call from your wrist

- 053** **Accept or reject a call from your watch**
Forget pulling out your phone ever again

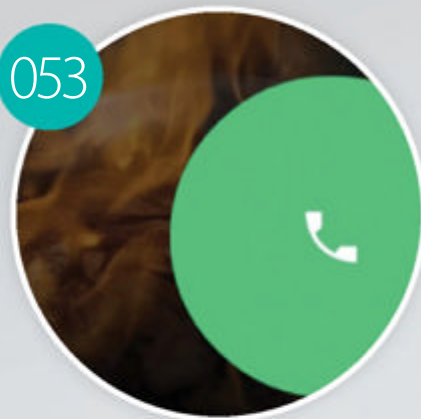
- 054** **Send a text message**
Text your contacts from your phone

- 055** **View your agenda**
See what your day holds

- 056** **Check your schedule**
Utilise the calendar applications

- 057** **Adjust volume with your Wear device**
Turn it up, turn it down, whichever you need

053



- 063** **Receive task notifications**
Increase productivity with Todoist

- 064** **Send email on your watch**
Sort out emails from your wrist

- 065** **Manage Gmail straight from your wrist**
Triage your emails without your phone

- 066** **Automate with actions**
Use If This Then That to automate actions

- 067** **Record audio messages**
Download Audio Recorder to save voice memos to the apps for instant playback

- 068** **Plan a journey**
Rely on Google Maps to plan your journey

- 069** **Get directions home on your wear device**
Don't get lost again with Google Maps

- 070** **Locate your car with ease**
Never misplace your car in a carpark again with My Car Locator

- 071** **Check your regular commutes**
Set up Google Now to send notifications

- 072** **Organise your train commute**
Use UK Trains to get travel details

- 073** **Send friends your location**
Send a Glympse to friends of your location

- 074** **Keep track of your reservations**
Use AirBnB to track your bookings

- 075** **Track the weather changes**
Cold? Wet? Hot? Sunny? Find out on your Android Wear

- 076** **Take photos using your Android Wear**
Take snaps with Google Camera

- 077** **Read the news on your device**
Stay in the know

- 078** **Relay recipes to your Android Wear**
Save your phone from mess

- 079** **Calculate the right gratuity tip amount**
Never leave the wrong amount

- 080** **Use your watch as a universal remote**
Music on. TV off. Play. Pause. Go.

066



- 058** **Set a countdown timer**
Set up a timer on your Wear device

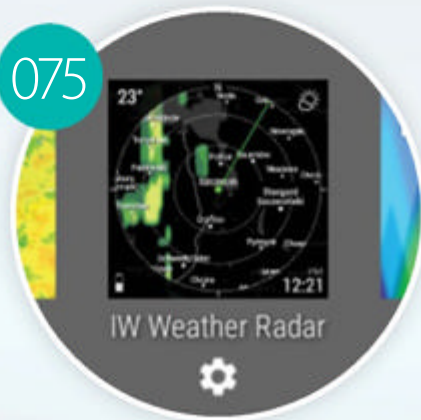
- 059** **Be reminded by Google Now**
Set up reminders to appear on your device

- 060** **Save voice memos**
Record voice memos to your wrist

- 061** **Take and view notes**
Voice your notes to your device

- 062** **Manage & create daily tasks**
Use Trello to set up tasks and events

075





060

065

“One of the benefits of using Wear devices is that they allow you to pull your phone out a lot less frequently”

Make a call on the phone

With Android Wear, it's possible to call using just your watch, particularly handy if you are using a Bluetooth headset



Although watches that allow you to make a call directly from the watch (in a James Bond style with an earpiece held up to your

ear) have been available for some years now, this isn't possible with Android Wear for one simple reason: there is no speaker on any current Android Wear device (although there is, of course, a microphone). This doesn't mean that Wear is useless when it comes to calls though – it can be used to initiate a call on your phone, which actually becomes useful if you are wearing a Bluetooth headset or you are connected to a Bluetooth car kit. The implementation, however, is a little bit strange.

Although you can initiate the call and also answer an incoming call, Google didn't seem to think it was necessary to provide a way in Android Wear to actually end the call. Odd. Thankfully, as is always the case with Android, third-party developers have stepped in to provide this functionality, as well as enriching initiating calls too, with tools like number dialling, speed dialling, browsing the call log and more.



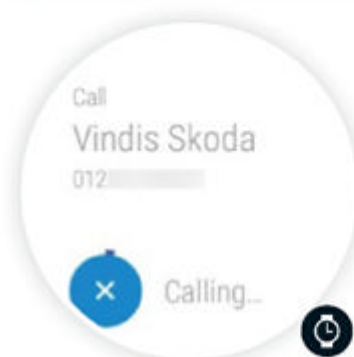
Another feature that would be useful on the device is searching for local businesses. This also isn't supported in the stock OS. Using the Microsoft Torque app provides this function, allowing you to call businesses straight from your watch.

Speed dialling

If you are a user that prefers to touch rather than talk to your watch, an app called Speed Dial for Android Wear allows you to do just that, and is available from the Play Store

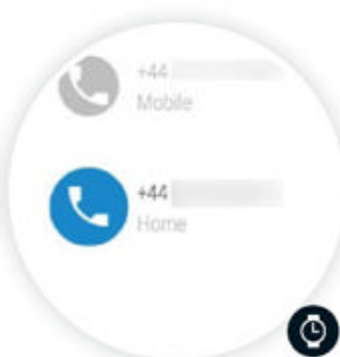
Phone

Make a call using Android Wear



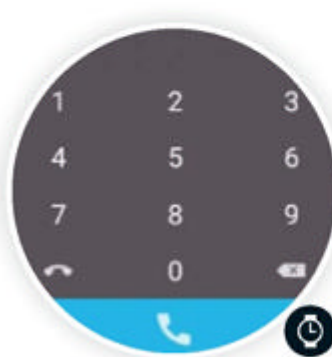
1: Select a contact

To start a call, simply say "OK Google" then "Call [contact name]." The watch will call that contact or display the contact methods if several exist.



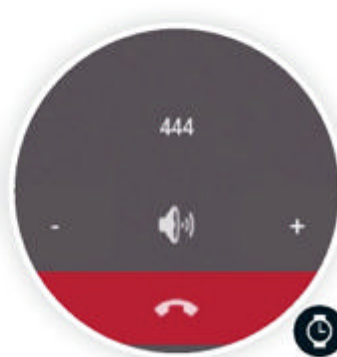
2: Be specific

Where there are multiple contact methods, the number can be selected using the menu or an extended voice command like "Call [contact name] at home/work."



3: Dial a number

If you wish to dial a number rather than a contact via Android Wear, you'll need to use a third-party application – Mini Dialer for Android Wear from the Play Store.



4: Hang up

It's a strange omission, but from the stock Android Wear interface you can't end calls either. Thankfully, the Mini Dialer app already mentioned resolves this issue too.

Accept or reject a call from your watch

Android Wear makes it easy to manage incoming calls from your watch, avoiding the need to get your phone out



One of the benefits of using an Android Wear device is that it allows you to pull your phone out a lot less frequently than you

would otherwise. One example of this is using your watch to manage calls – this allows you to see who is calling at a glance and decide how to respond, either by rejecting the call or sending a canned response via text message, after which you can continue the conversation using voice dictation in order to reply to the incoming SMS.

Bear in mind, however, that although the current generation of Android Wear devices have a microphone, they don't have a speaker, so you cannot actually conduct calls using the Wear device alone! This doesn't mean that the answer call function isn't useful – if you have your phone in your pocket or bag with a headset attached, you can use that. Don't forget that you can also use the speakerphone.

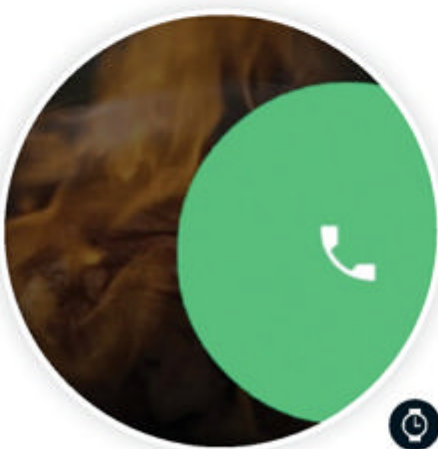
“See who is calling at a glance and decide how to respond”



Incoming call images

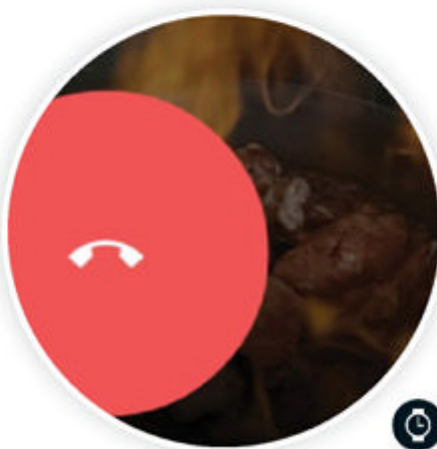
When a call comes in on your Android Wear device, you will also see a picture of the caller. Use your device's Contacts app to change the image.

Phone Manage calls with Android Wear



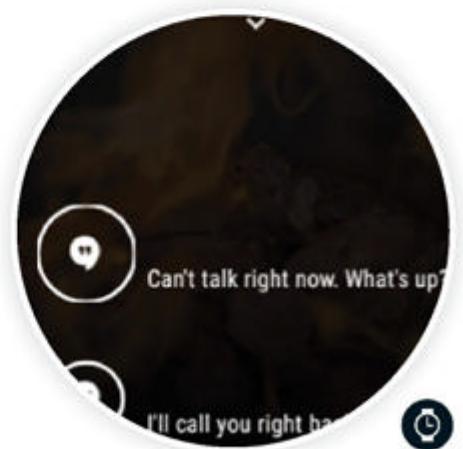
1: Answer a call

When you have an incoming call on your Wear device, you will see details of the caller on the screen, and green and red buttons. Drag the green button left to answer.



2: Reject a call

In the same way, dragging the red button to the right will reject the incoming call, sending it to voicemail or ending the call depending on your device's configuration.



3: Use canned responses

When rejecting calls, it is also possible to send short pre-defined SMS responses. To do so, drag upwards on the screen as a call comes in, and select from the list.

Send a text message

Android Wear's powerful voice-recognition engine can be used to dictate text messages and send them to contacts

Although talking to your watch isn't always the most natural thing to do, there are certain situations where it makes sense.

Android Wear is primarily about responding to things, like emails, messages and so on. You can compose text messages from your watch using a simple voice command (as well as, of course, replying to incoming messages). Initiating a text message on your device is as simple as specifying the contact by name, reading the message and optionally specifying the number type (mobile, home and so on) if multiple entries are defined. After dictating the message, there is a short opportunity to check the content and cancel the message if the text hasn't been recognised correctly.

Replying to text messages is also very easy on Android Wear, offering not just the ability to dictate a message, but also a number of 'canned responses', which are predefined messages that can be quickly sent by voice or with a click. If the stock canned responses aren't sufficient, then third-party applications are available that allow you to define your own

responses as well as configure specific shortcuts to messages for the people you choose, to make the process even quicker and easier. For the ultimate level of control, a number of plug-ins are available for Tasker, allowing the initiation of custom SMS actions from your watch.

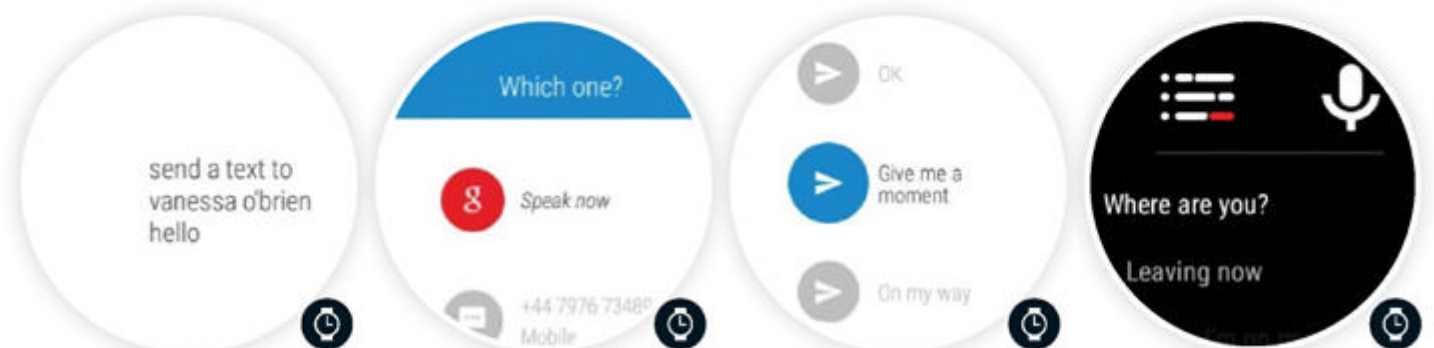
Advanced SMS with Tasker

For additional flexibility, the WearTasker plug-in from the Play Store allows you to initiate any Tasker task directly from your watch, which could easily be configured to send a custom SMS.



Messaging

Send a text message from your watch



1: Compose the message

To compose a message, say "OK Google" then "Send a text to [contact name] [text content]." This will automatically recognise the contact and your message.

2: Choose the method

If you specify a contact that has multiple numbers attached, you will be prompted to choose which to use. You can either click on the correct number, or speak the type.

3: Use canned responses

When a text message is received, two options are available – either a response can be spoken in the regular way, or one of a number of 'canned responses' can be selected.

4: Avoid using voice

Sometimes you don't want to talk to your watch! The Coffee app from the Play Store allows you to pre-define messages and send them to contacts with a few clicks.

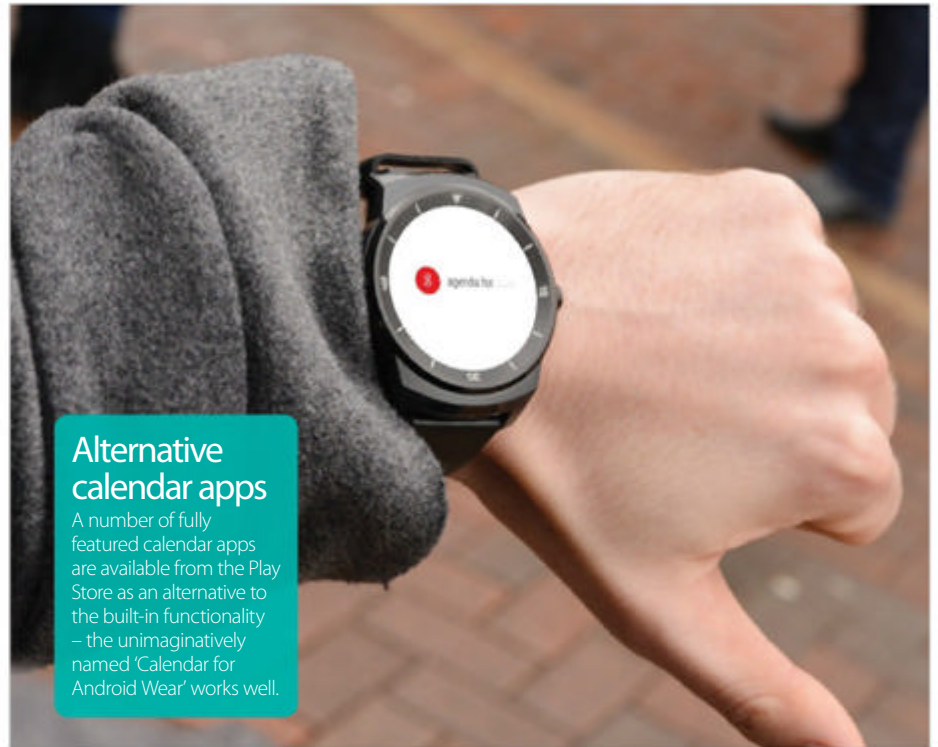
View your agenda on your Android Wear

Do you have somewhere to be? Android Wear is a great way to quickly check your agenda on the go

31 An Android Wear device is a great companion to a full-on work day of meetings, helping you be in the right place at the right time courtesy of Google Now navigation directions and the built-in meeting alert cards. In addition to this, if you want to check today or tomorrow's agenda in more detail, you can do so – as always – using simple voice commands. The time, title, location and description text for an item are all displayed on your watch's screen, albeit in a rather basic layout.

Third-party applications are available from the Play Store, which enhance the stock experience, adding features such as the ability to add new calendar entries and use alternative views, such as day, week or month, mimicking the more advanced features of the full Android Calendar app. You can also launch the Calendar app on your phone straight from the watch.

“To check an agenda in detail, do so using voice commands”



Alternative calendar apps

A number of fully featured calendar apps are available from the Play Store as an alternative to the built-in functionality – the unimaginatively named ‘Calendar for Android Wear’ works well.

Calendar View your agenda on the go

Tuesday, 10 March
2015

10:00 Hospital
Visit



Wednesday, 11
March 2015

18:00 Governors
Meeting



10:04

CalenGoo

11:00: Meeting with
John



1: See what's going on today

The simplest agenda function on Android Wear is finding out your appointments for today. To do so, wake your watch and say “OK Google” followed by “Agenda for today.”

2: See what's going on tomorrow

In the same way, you can also ask the watch to show you your “Agenda for tomorrow.” Clicking on an item will display further details about the meeting location and description.

3: Add an event

On Android Wear devices, there is currently no support for adding appointments. This can be achieved by using a third-party app, such as Calengoo, which is a full calendar replacement.

Check your schedule at any time

Keep track of your upcoming events, see what days in the month you have free, and have a calendar to hand at all times with the Calendar For Android Wear app



Calendar For Android Wear by developer Wearable Software provides you with an easy-to-navigate calendar on your Wear device.

There are plenty of Wear calendar apps available, although most offer limited options and merely provide you with the dates of the month on your watch face.

The Calendar For Android Wear app will automatically sync all of your Google Calendar data with the app, putting all of your current calendar information on your Wear device. You can view date information by month or by specific days. You can even view detailed event information that was added to new events when they were created. Currently you cannot create calendar events from your Android Wear device. There is no sister app with settings for Calendar For Android Wear. Once installed you can only access it directly from your Android Wear device.

“An easy-to-navigate calendar on your Wear device”



Scheduling apps

Although you cannot create events for your calendar with Calendar For Android Wear, there are plenty of fantastic scheduling apps available, such as Todo-list and Wanderlist.

Calendar For Android Wear

Review your calendar



1: View your calendar

Once the app is installed on your Android Wear device from Google Play, open the Calendar For Android Wear app on your Wear device. The app will sync with your Google Calendar.



2: View events

Dates in red have an event associated with them. Tap on the date to view the event. Scroll downward to view more events if you have multiple events around one single date.



3: Browse your calendar

Swipe to the right to move forward through the year, and to browse through upcoming months. Dates without events on them cannot be viewed other than on the calendar display.

Adjust volume with your Wear device

Using the Wear Volume app you can quickly adjust the overall volume of your Android's audio output from your Android Wear interface

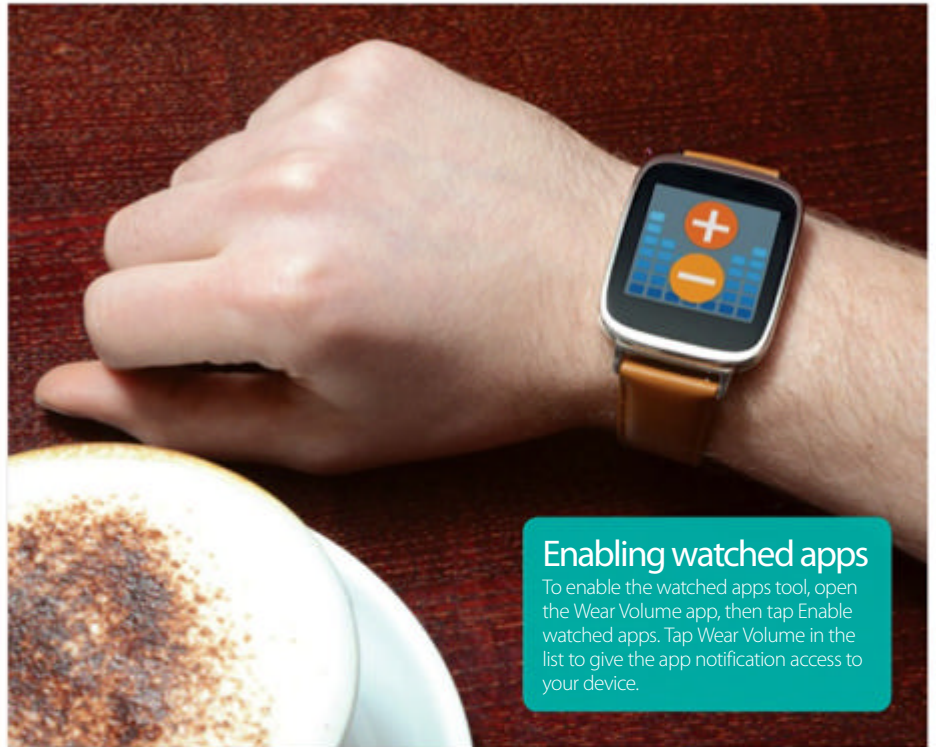


Wear Volume is a simple enough app that places a very simple but potentially very useful tool on the wrist of your arm. Wear Volume

does as it suggests; it allows you to adjust the volume of your phone from your Android Wear device. If your headphones don't have an in-built volume control on the cable and you find yourself having to reach into your pocket to turn your music up or down, then this is where the Wear Volume control comes in handy.

By simply pulling up the app on your Wear device, you are able to turn the volume of any of your devices' audio output up or down. You can also assign watched apps within the app, so when any one of these apps displays a notification on your Wear device, you will be asked if you want to adjust the volume of the app also.

"It allows you to adjust the volume of your phone from your Android Wear device"

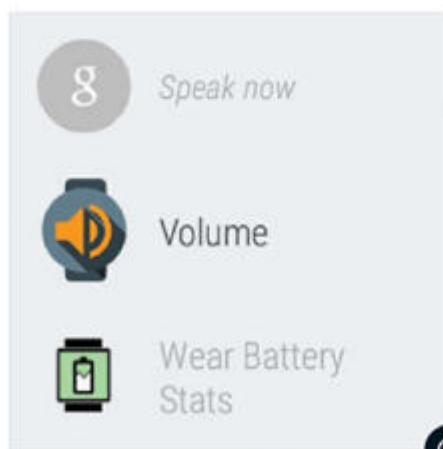


Enabling watched apps

To enable the watched apps tool, open the Wear Volume app, then tap Enable watched apps. Tap Wear Volume in the list to give the app notification access to your device.

Wear Volume

Remotely adjust volume



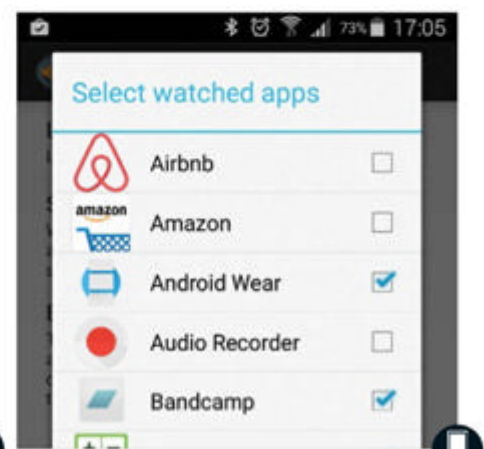
1: Open the app

Once Wear Volume is installed on your Android device it will appear as an available app on your Android Wear device. Open the app from the Start menu on your Wear device.



2: Adjust the volume

Tap on the volume buttons to increase or decrease the volume coming out of your Android phone or tablet. These adjustments won't change the volume of your Wear device.



3: Select watched apps

Open the Wear Volume app. Tap Select watched apps. Watched apps will open the Wear Volume app on your watch whenever they are opened on your Android device.

Set a countdown timer

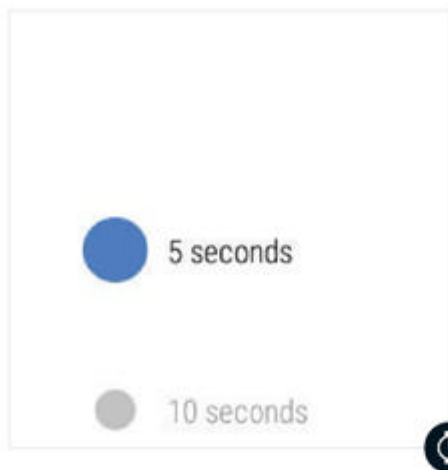
Cooking eggs? Putting a cake in the oven? Then why not let Android Wear timers help you with that!

 Android Wear watches and wearables in general are most useful when they allow you to complete tasks in a hands-free manner that might be inconvenient to do otherwise. Setting a timer when baking is a great example of this. Android Wear timers are pretty basic, but they can be set both using the manual steps below and also by simply dictating a duration when initiating the timer. You can't pause, restart or delete timers using voice alone, however. As with alarms, timers don't make an audible sound when complete, as there are no speakers on the current range of Android Wear devices. Instead, they use a vibrating alert. As is always the case with Android, enterprising developers have also developed a number of third-party applications that build upon the basic timer functionality built in to the base Android Wear OS for improved functionality.

"They can be set manually and also by dictating a duration"

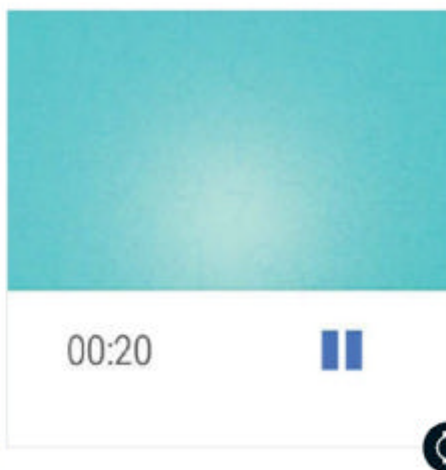


Android Wear Setting and managing your timers



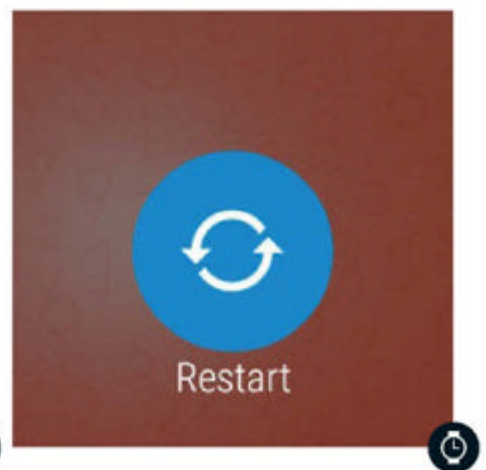
1: Set a timer

To set a timer on Android Wear, wake your watch and say "OK Google" followed by "Set a timer." Time spans from five seconds to 90 minutes can be chosen.



2: Pause a timer

When the timer is running, a countdown appears on a card at the bottom of the screen. The timer can be paused and restarted using the button in this card.



3: Restart or delete

Sweeping the card left reveals two further cards that can be used to either restart the timer or delete it completely. The watch vibrates when the timer completes.

Be reminded by Google Now

Android Wear allows you to set time-based reminders using a simple voice command



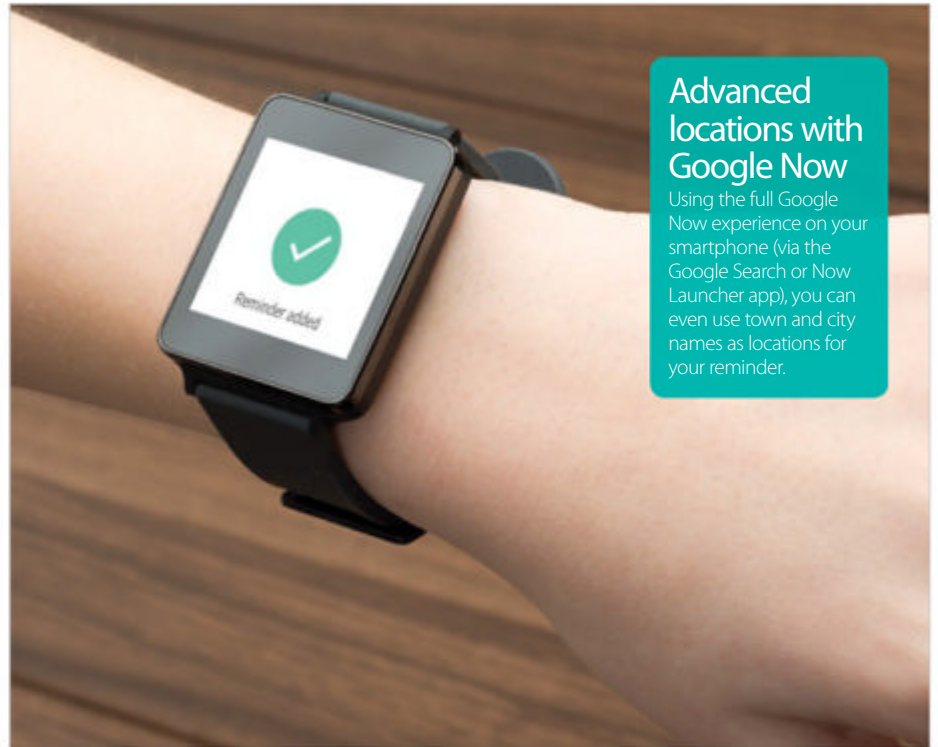
One of the best features about Android Wear is that it allows you to quickly achieve, via voice, things that would normally take much longer to do manually on your phone.

One great example is setting reminders to do things at a specific time or location. Both the content of the reminder and the time or location can be dictated using Android Wear's advanced voice recognition.

While the functionality to set more advanced location-based reminders is included in Google Now, Android Wear only includes a limited subset – the ability to set a reminder to trigger when you are at home or work, as defined in the Google Maps application on your device.

The reminders themselves do not only trigger on your watch – they also trigger on your phone at the same time, and even in Chrome if you have Google Now configured on your PC!

“Set reminders to do things at a specific time or location”



Advanced locations with Google Now

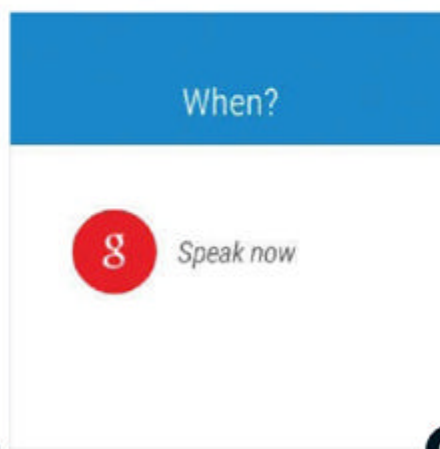
Using the full Google Now experience on your smartphone (via the Google Search or Now Launcher app), you can even use town and city names as locations for your reminder.

Google Now Set useful reminders



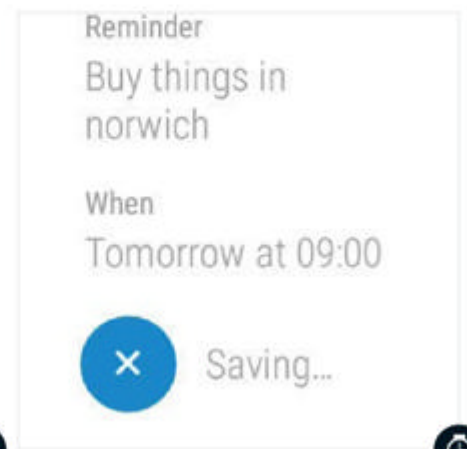
1: Dictate your message

To start a reminder, wake your Android Wear device and say “OK Google” then “Remind me to...” followed by the text of the reminder, such as “buy a pint of milk.”



2: Set a time-based reminder

The most simple type of reminder is time based. After dictating the text, the watch will prompt you for a time. Use values such as 7am, tomorrow or midday on Thursday.



3: Set a location-based reminder

Instead of dictating a specific time, you can instead use a location such as home or work, as defined in the Google Maps application on your phone.

Save voice memos

Android Wear devices have a built-in microphone, which makes them great for saving voice memos and reminders



Android Wear devices all have a built-in microphone and, while this is necessary for voice commands and dictation, it also

means that an Android Wear watch is an ideal way to record voice memos. As is the case with a number of features in Wear currently, it's not supported in the base OS – it's instead served by third-party applications.

A number of suitable apps are available from the Play Store – two of the best are Wear Audio Recorder and Parrot Voice Recorder. Both applications are particularly useful, because they synchronise recordings made on the watch back to your smartphone to then be edited or shared. In addition, the phone part of the apps both serve as a recording app in their own right (for if you want to record on the phone) and as a configuration tool for the Wear app, providing the ability to change format and quality options as well as enable/disable additional features. Android Wear devices normally have 4GB internal storage, some of which is allocated to the system, however this still leaves ample room for voice recordings,



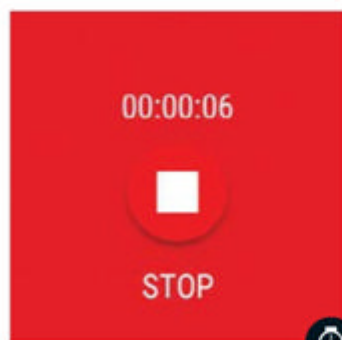
which are generally deleted from the watch as soon as they are synced. Capturing raw audio is the most space consuming, however, encoding options, such as MP3, are also available. Stripping silent sections automatically also helps save space.

Using voice activation

There is not a specific Google Now command for recording audio, but remember that you can start the recording app using "OK Google, Start [app name]" after waking your watch.

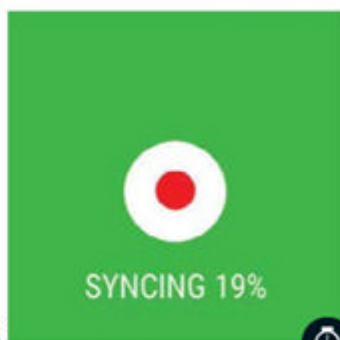
Wear Audio Recorder

Recording audio with Android Wear



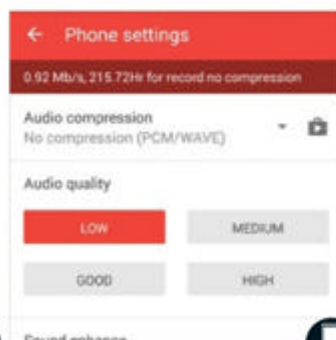
1: Wear Audio Recorder

Wear Audio Recorder allows you to record both on your Android device and your Wear device. It has a host of options, including echo suppression and noise filtering.



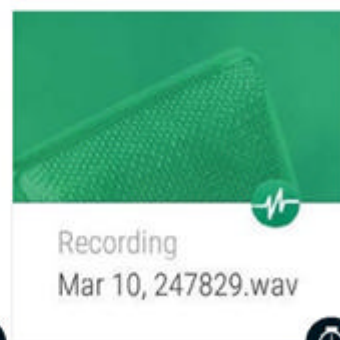
2: Sync to device

After an audio clip has been recorded on your Wear device, the audio file automatically syncs to your phone, where it can be played, shared, deleted, tagged or edited.



3: Manage audio quality

Wear Audio Recorder includes a host of options in-app, with configurable audio compression and a range of quality and enhancement settings.



4: Check the levels

An alternative popular app is Parrot Voice Recorder, which offers a unique live-sound wave graph while recording, to help check that you are receiving the right levels.

Take and view notes

Android Wear is perfect for taking quick notes on your device for referring to later, using a number of apps



Taking notes on Android Wear is straightforward and aided greatly by the versatility of Android's intense system. This allows a single

voice command to be routed to the app of a users' choice. On a stock device, the note functionality is actually quite limited. When a note is dictated, it gets stored to the user's own email account. The easiest way to improve this is to use Google Keep, which is pre-installed on some devices (such as the Nexus range) or available from the Play Store. This provides a great way to edit notes later on the device, as well as a much improved user interface.

If even Google Keep is too basic, Evernote is the next step in complexity, providing a much more business-ready solution.

Another powerful option is Trello, a card and item-based application for taking notes from your watch. This has a multi-step interface in order to allow customisation of the destination for each individual note. For obvious reasons, it's not really feasible to store notes without using voice – it would be slightly difficult to define the content!



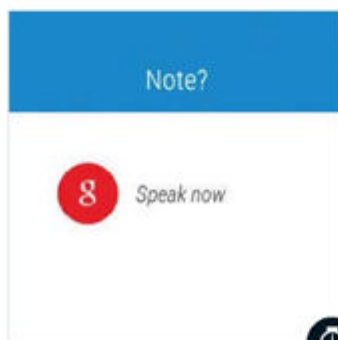
If you are storing notes to refer to at a specific later time, it's also worth checking out Android Wear's built-in reminder function – this works in a very similar way, but adds a future time context to the note, as well as integrating with Google Now.

Setting the default app

The first time you save a note (or save after adding a note app), the destination you choose becomes the default. If you wish to change this, you can do so in the Android Wear app.

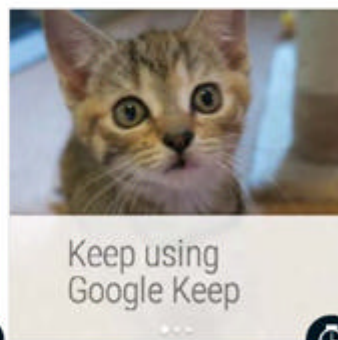
Google Keep

Note taking on your Wear device



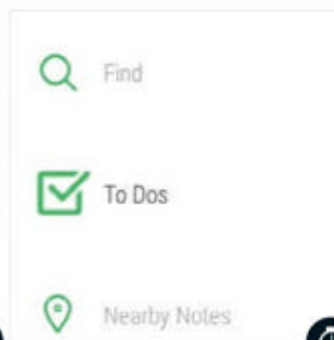
1: Take a note

To take a note on your watch simply say: "Take a note" followed by the desired content. Unless you have an alternative app installed, notes will be sent to you via Gmail.



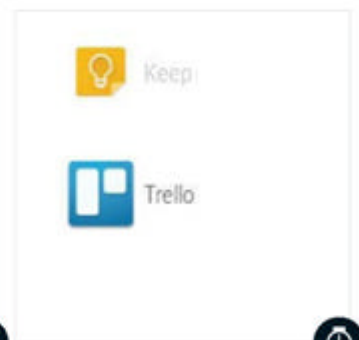
2: Google Keep

Google's note-taking app is called Google Keep. Pre-installed on some Android devices and also available from the Play Store, this is a great free destination for your notes.



3: Evernote

If Evernote is installed, this is offered as an alternative note destination. Upon taking your first note, a screen will appear letting you choose where to send the content.



4: Trello

If you are looking for enhanced note functionality, then Trello is a very good place to start. It allows you to store notes on different boards and cards.

Manage and create daily tasks

Set up Trello to communicate directly with your Android Wear device, so you can create tasks and events with voice commands while on the go



Trello is an organisational app that allows you to manage and organise your business and personal life on your Android device.

Trello uses cards to allow you to organise events, tasks and to-do lists, which can be assigned to yourself or even other people. It can be used to manage a giant business project or help you make a shopping list at the grocery store.

With your Android Wear device, you are able to create new notes and fill in the information for the note by speaking into your Wear device. Any cards detailing events or tasks that you are subscribed to that are associated with other users will pop up on your Wear device if another user interacts or comments on the card.

You will also receive notifications and reminders of cards that have dates associated with them on your watch, making sure you never miss a task.

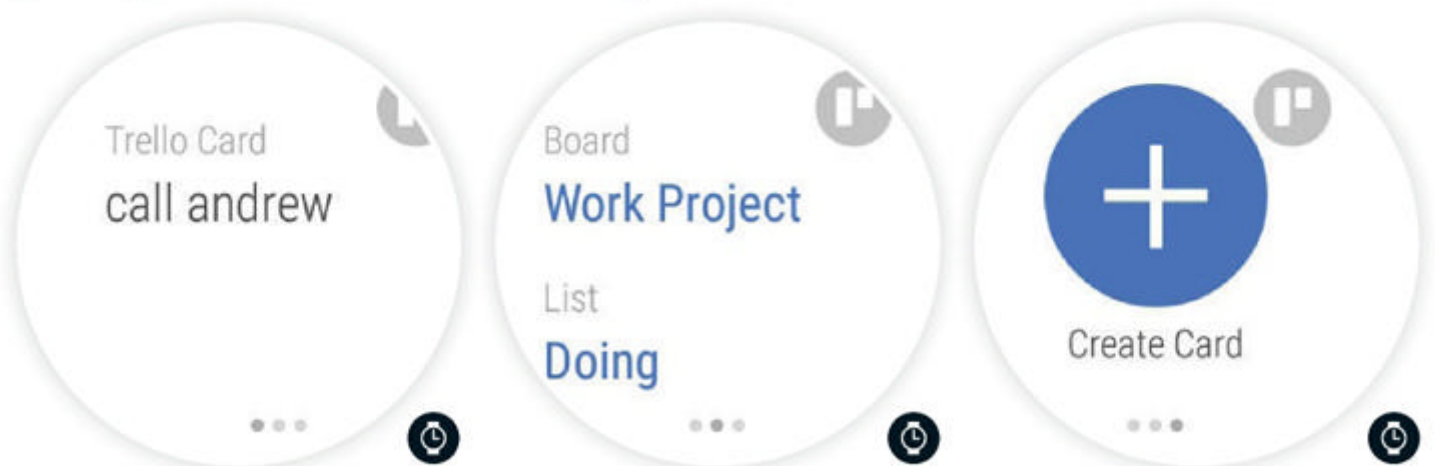
“Events, tasks and lists can be assigned to you or other people”



Comments in Trello

If another Trello user comments on a card that you are associated with, you will receive a notification on your Wear device that you can then reply to.

Trello Create organisational cards in Trello



1: Make a note

Open Trello on your smartphone and log in to the app with your Google or Trello account. When your Wear device is in Speak now mode say “Take a note” then speak your note.

2: Assign a card

When prompted, select Trello to save your note to. Swipe right then tap Board to select a board to assign the note to. Tap List to assign the note to a Trello list instead.

3: Create a board

Swipe to the right then tap Create a card. The note you made will then be saved to your Trello account under the board or list you assigned it to, and can be accessed from the app.

Receive task notifications on your wrist

Increase your productivity and never miss an opportunity to tick a task off your to-do list with the Todoist app and your Android Wear device



It's all well and good setting up a to-do list of tasks, but remembering to actually get round to doing them can often

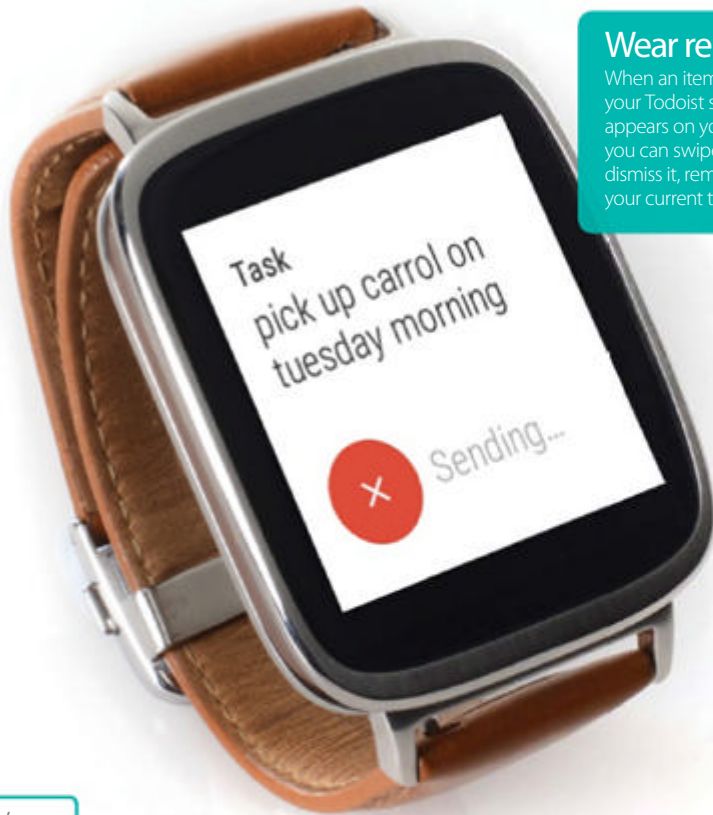
be the tricky part. Todoist enables you to build lists of tasks that need completing, which you can associate with set times, people and even locations.

The Todoist app is now compatible with the Android Wear watch. This means that when you create a list of tasks within the app, you will receive notifications on your watch reminding you of them, which is handy. The Todoist app will also be able to provide you with location-based notifications, so when you are within a close proximity of a location that is associated with a set-up task, you will receive a notification on your watch. By placing your tasks on your wrist, it really becomes much easier to manage and get round to doing the things on your to-do list.

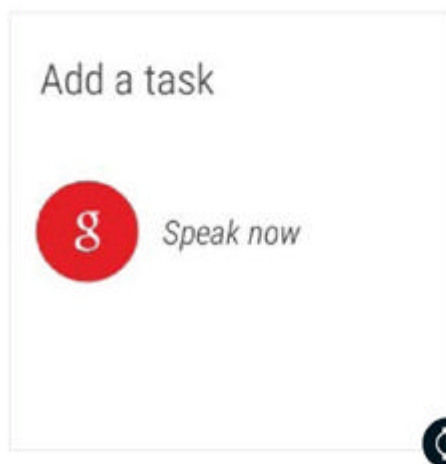
“Associate tasks with set times, people and even locations”

Wear reminders

When an item comes up on your Todoist schedule and it appears on your Wear screen, you can swipe to the right to dismiss it, removing it from your current to-do list.

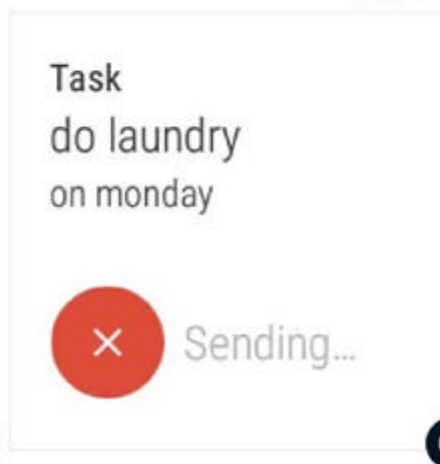


Todoist Create tasks on Android Wear



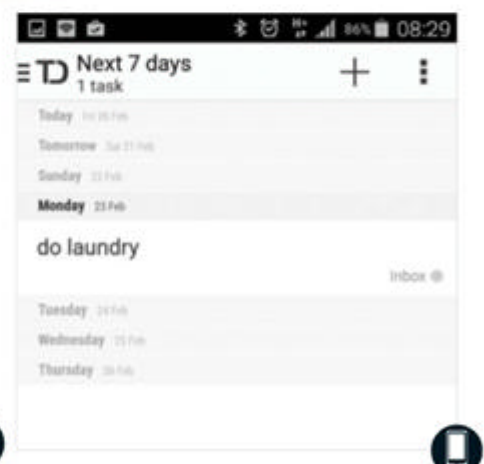
1: Create a task

Open the Todoist tool on your Android Wear device. As soon as it is open you'll be prompted to speak a voice command. Say a task you want recorded into your Wear device.



2: Save a task

Todoist will display the words you just spoke in text before saving them to your Todoist app. You can then view the task in the app on your smartphone or tablet.



3: Date specific tasks

By Saying “Do laundry on Monday” into your Wear device, Todoist will add the task of “Do Laundry” to your Monday Todoist, which can be viewed within the app.

Send email on your watch

Android Wear can be used to easily send emails to your contacts via the Gmail application on your phone

 As well as providing the ability to triage email on your wrist, Android Wear allows you to compose new emails very easily (as long as you're using the Gmail app – the Android 'Mail' application is not supported currently). Remember however, that Gmail on Android now supports non-Gmail email accounts too, so there's a good chance you're covered whichever service you use.

Actually sending the email is very easy– it's simply a case of reading the name of the person you want to email followed by the message – after which you will be given a short period of time to check the details before the message is sent. The functionality is fairly rudimentary in that the dictated message is actually used in the subject line of the resulting email (the body simply contains the words 'sent by voice'), but it's easy and convenient to use. If you are a user of Inbox for Gmail, don't worry, Google still has you covered, as the Inbox app has full Android Wear functionality too, with support for additional Inbox features, such as marking completed items also included. If

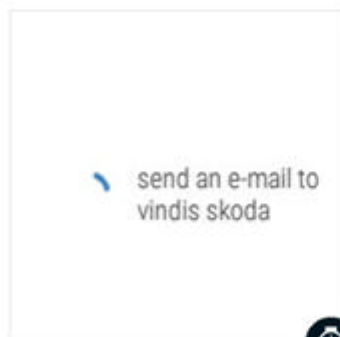


you require something a little more advanced than Google can provide, then a third-party app from the Play Store, such as CloudMagic, may be in order. CloudMagic supports a wider range of email services and notification options compared to the stock experience.

Beware of multiple accounts

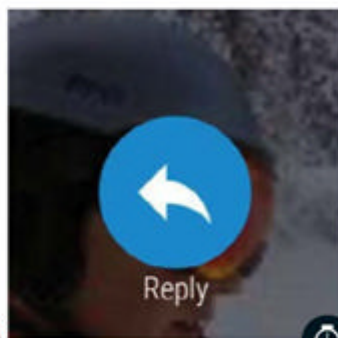
If you have multiple email accounts configured on your device, be careful – the message is sent from the Gmail account currently selected in the app on the phone.

Gmail Send email from your Wear device



1: Compose a message

To compose a message from your watch, say "OK Google" followed by "Send an email to [contact] [message]." The message is actually put in the subject line of the mail.



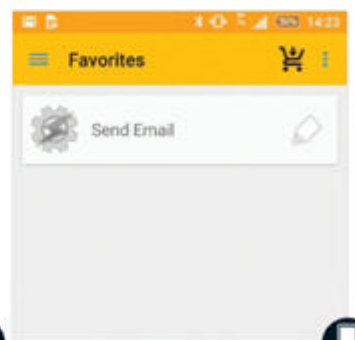
2: Send a reply

When an email comes in on your watch, you can also send a reply in the same way. Sweep a message to the left to see the reply button and speak your message.



3: Check out WearMail

WearMail is a Play Store application that enhances Android Wear email adding multiple accounts, the option to select a pre-defined reply from a list, and much more.



4: Automate the process

The excellent Tasker application can be used to automate and enhance the email process, allowing you to configure simple one-tap email sending from your watch.

Manage Gmail straight from your wrist

Android Wear is a great way to manage your Gmail account, allowing you to triage your email without having to get your phone out

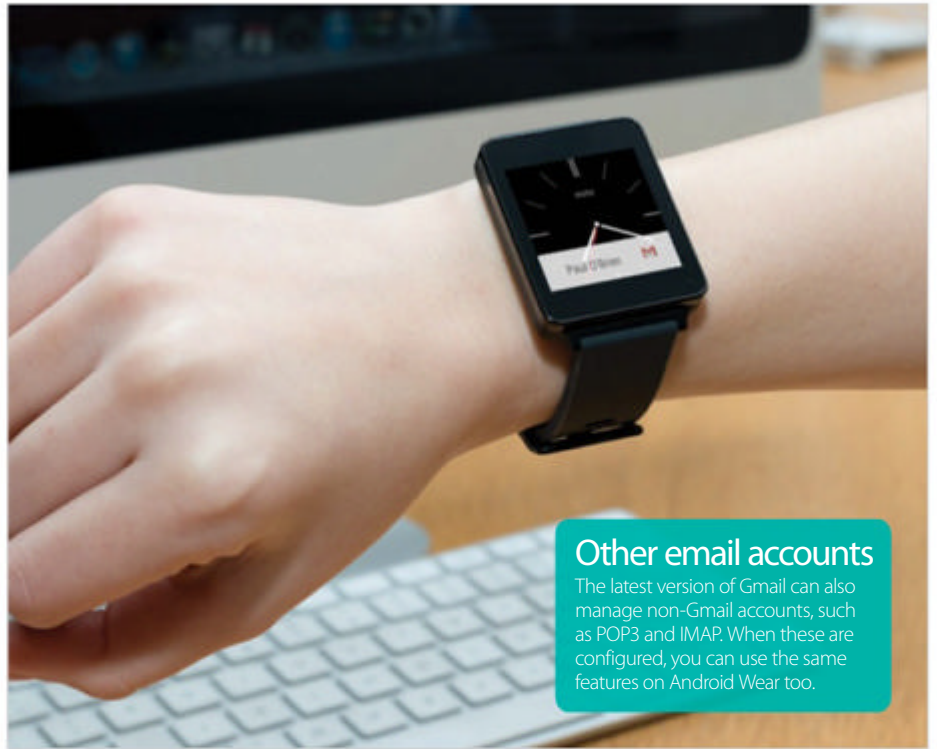


One of the best things about Android Wear is the ability to carry out tasks quickly, easily and subtly that would normally

require you to get the phone out of your pocket. Using Gmail is a great example of this. As messages come in, they can be deleted, archived or even replied to via voice recognition as required (or just ignored for managing later), lightening the load for when you do open up the app on your device. Not only is this quick and convenient, but it can also save you considerable battery life as your phone doesn't have to come out as frequently.

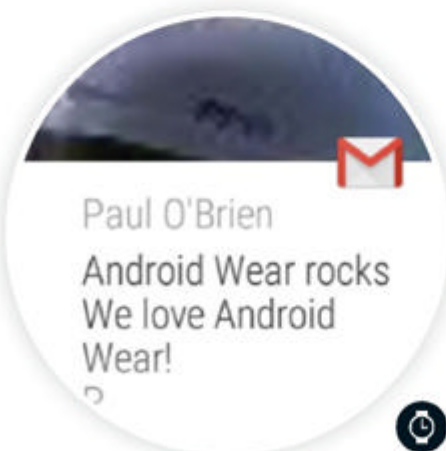
The messages themselves are surprisingly readable on the device – an overview is presented first, but you can also scroll through the whole message if you want to. Any formatting in the message is lost, however, and attachments also cannot be viewed on the watch itself.

“The messages are surprisingly readable on the device”



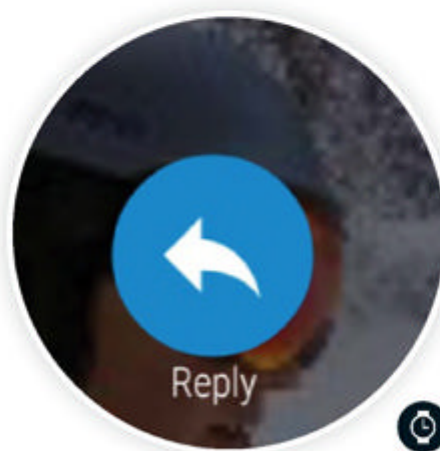
Gmail

Manage your Gmail on Android Wear



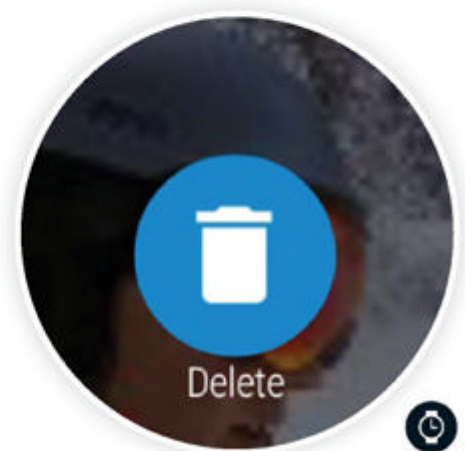
1: Read your mail

When a message arrives, a card appears with a Gmail icon, the mail subject and a small amount of content. Sweep the card upwards and click to view the full message.



2: Reply with voice

Sweeping to the left on the Gmail card reveals a number of options, one of which is 'Reply'. After selecting this, the normal voice recognition is available for dictating your message.



3: Delete and archive

When viewing the options, an archive or delete button will be available, depending on the configuration of your device's Gmail app. This option matches the phone notification button.

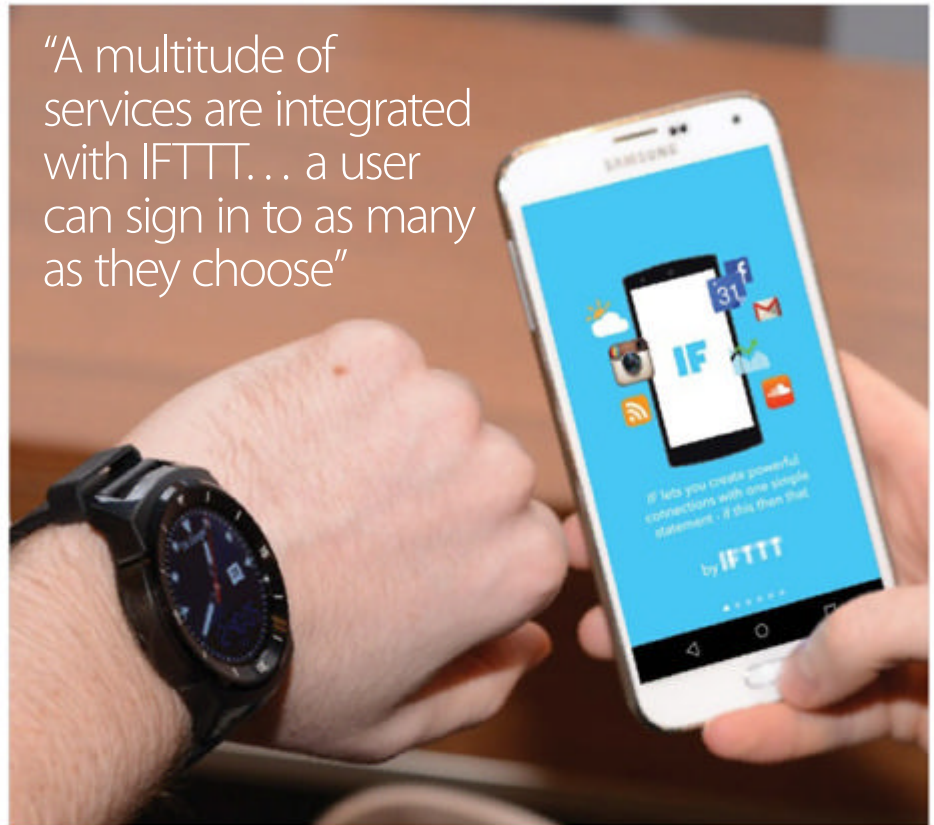
Automate with actions

IFTTT (If This Then That) allows you to automate a whole range of tasks from a click of your watch

IF IFTTT started out as a purely web-based service that allowed the triggering of certain actions based on specific events. For example, IFTTT can be used in order to send a tweet when you upload a message to Dropbox; send a notification to your phone when an RSS item is updated; or do something online when you press a button on your phone, plus a whole host of other things. A multitude of services are integrated with IFTTT, and from the website a user can sign in to as many as they choose and configure interactions between them.

As IFTTT has matured, its capabilities have increased, and with the advent of the Android app, the service can now be hooked into both your Android phone and your Android Wear device, with a number of both Android 'thises' and 'thats'!

The user interface is very slick and, most importantly, extremely easy to use, meaning that the service is a lot more accessible to those who might perhaps be scared away by the complexity of an application such as Tasker. The Wear functions themselves are fairly basic

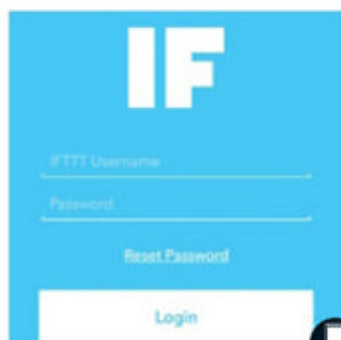


at the time of writing, in that the 'this' is limited to a button press, and the 'that' is limited to a notification on the watch, however, it is the sheer number of services that IFTTT hooks into that makes it so powerful.

Online recipe sync

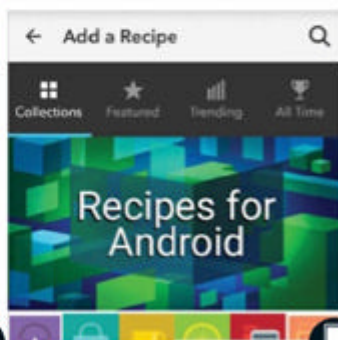
Recipes added on your phone will sync up to the IFTTT website. In the same way, you can use the website to set up new recipes in an easier-to-use interface.

IFTTT Automate tasks from your watch



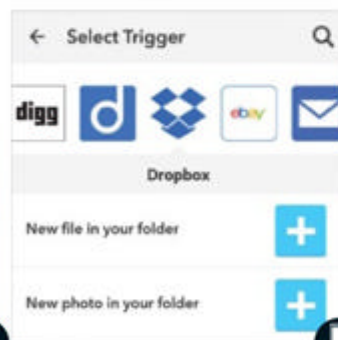
1: Register and install

To get started with IFTTT, you will need to register an account and install the 'IF' app from the Play Store. You can sign up in the app or at ifttt.com.



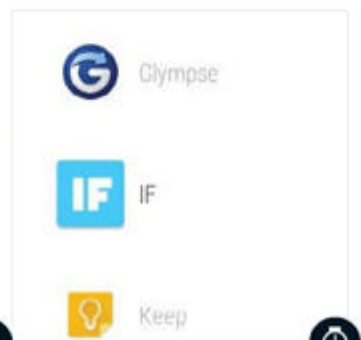
2: Choose a recipe

After installing the app and signing in, press the button in the top right then the plus button to choose a recipe from the many created by other users.



3: Create your own

After you've seen recipes by others, you can be more ambitious and create your own. Use the plus button in the bottom right and work through the wizard provided.



4: Test the recipe

After you have configured the recipe on your phone, it will be sent to your Android Wear device. Use the 'Start IF' command to launch the app, then press the button!

Record audio messages from the wrist

Make audio recordings using the microphone on your Wear device, and send them directly to the app for instant playback with Sony's Audio Recorder app



The in-built microphone on your Android Wear device is good for much more than prompting voice commands to control your

watch, smartphone and tablet. It is also a tool for recording notes onto your various Android devices. The voice-recording app that comes native with Android devices doesn't yet support Wear tech, however there are a few apps available on the Play Store that do.

Audio Recorder from Sony Mobile Communication will install the app on your smartphone or tablet, then making it available on your Wear device. Any recordings that you make on your Wear device will then be sent to the app on your Android device where you can play it back. The app also comes with a series of settings for your Wear device determining the quality and noise suppression of audio recordings. You can also record audio directly through the app if need be.

"You can record audio directly through the app if need be"

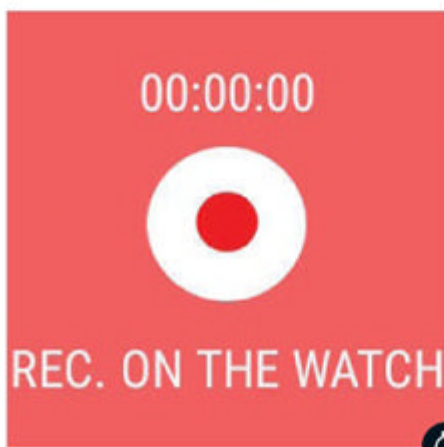


Compression settings

Tap the watch icon in the app to view your Wear settings. Tap Audio compression to change the compression type depending on the type of audio that you are planning to record.

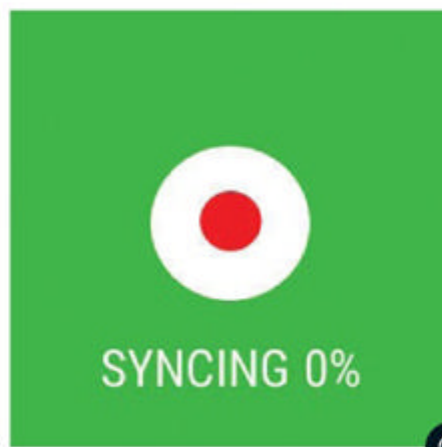
Audio Recorder

Create a new audio recording



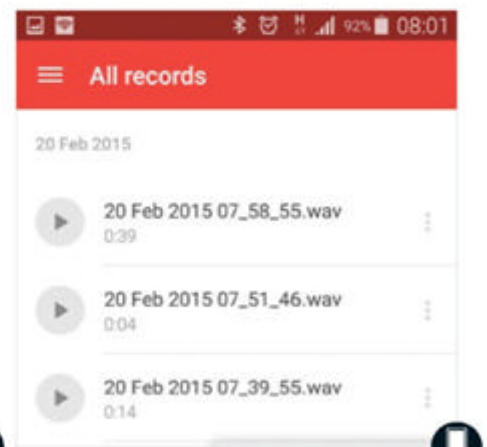
1: Start a recording

Open the Audio Recorder app from the Start menu on your Wear device. Tap the record button to start the audio recording, and speak into your Wear device to test the microphone.



2: Sync it

Tap stop to end the recording. As soon as you stop recording, your Wear device will start syncing with your smartphone or tablet to send the recording to the app for playback.



3: Play back audio

Swipe to the left on your Wear device, then tap Open on the phone to open the app. Tap the Play icon to play back your recordings, or tap the Menu button for more options.

Plan a journey

Google Maps installs a cut-down version on Android Wear devices, allowing journey planning right from your watch



One really useful feature on Android Wear is the ability to plan – and follow – journey directions on your device.

Sometimes you might feel a little conspicuous if you are following walking directions on your phone, particularly at night, and the Wear maps support definitely helps with this.

Directions can be initiated on your watch to a specific address, town or business name in order to travel on foot, on a bike or in a car. After the route is planned, turn-by-turn directions appear on the screen of your watch, which vibrates when there is something that needs your attention. Voice directions still come from the phone, so you might want to turn the volume down!

A number of third-party applications are available in the Play Store that enhance the mapping experience on Android Wear – Mini Maps allows you to view a scrollable and zoomable map of your current location (something that you would really expect to be included in the Google Maps Micro stock build) and @here uses an Android Wear notification



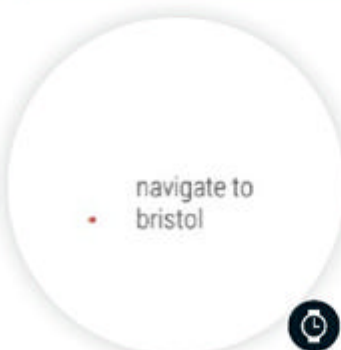
card to show information about and a map of your current location every time you are stationary for a period of time.

One point to note is that if you use directions for an extended period of time, it has quite an impact on the watch's battery life.

Following the directions

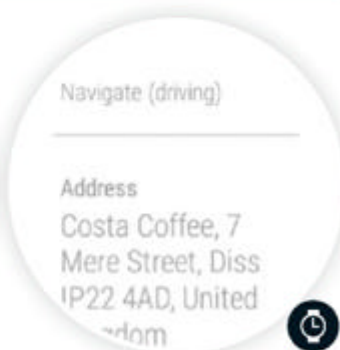
After you have started navigation either from your watch or your phone, directions will appear on screen for each turn. Sound will still come from the phone however!

Google Maps Plan a journey from your watch



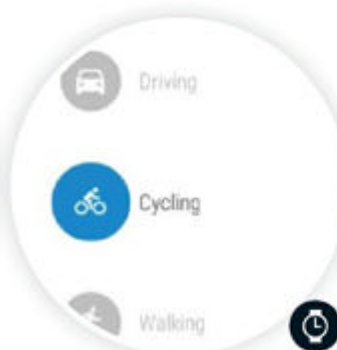
1: Get directions

To get directions to a destination on your Wear device, wake the device and say "OK Google" followed by "Get directions to [destination]." You can also say "Navigate to".



2: Find a business

As well as saying an address or town name, you can also say the name of a business to navigate to it. For example: "Get directions to Costa Coffee."



3: Drive, cycle, walk

After specifying a destination, a screen will appear where you can choose the method of travel. Click the default to switch between driving, cycling and walking.



4: View a map

Strangely, it's not possible to view a map of your current location on the watch when not navigating. To do this, install an app such as @here or Mini Maps.

Get directions home on your wear device

An Android Wear voice command allows you to ask for directions to your home, without needing to read a full address



Android Wear can make using complicated functions on your phone really easy, and a great example of this is using your

watch to get directions to your home. By pre-configuring your home location on your phone via the Google Maps application, you can avoid having to read a full address to your watch; something that is difficult at best with today's voice recognition.

After you have initiated the directions, you can then use your Android Wear device's screen to follow the route, avoiding the need to have your phone out and on display. This is particularly useful if you are in an unknown area where you might feel vulnerable with your technology on display, or even perhaps because you want to save battery power on the phone itself. Today's phones can get a good enough GPS signal even if they are sitting in your pocket.

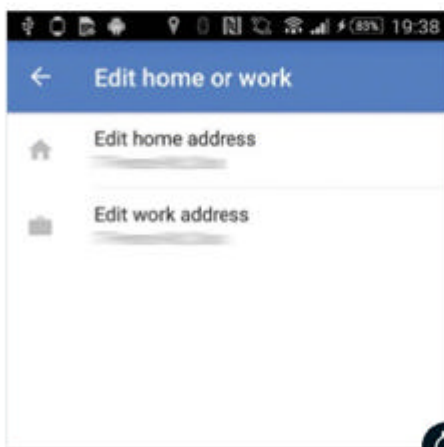
"Use your Android Wear device's screen to follow the route"



Changing the travel mode

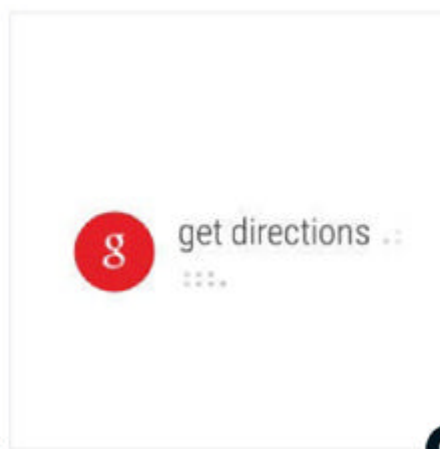
After you have requested your route, there is a short period of time where you can press the button to select driving, cycling, walking or using public transport.

Google Maps Configure and get directions home



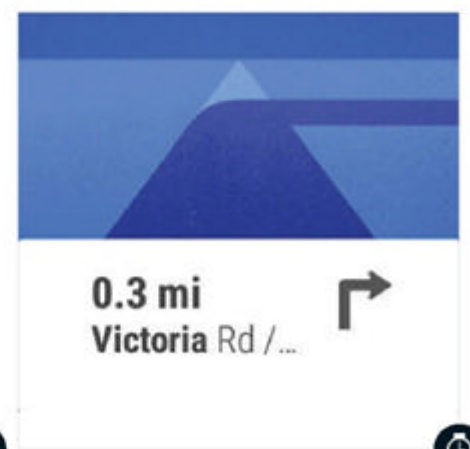
1: Set your home location

In order to tell your watch to route you to home, you first need to set your home location in the Settings page of the Google Maps app on your phone.



2: Use voice commands

Actually getting the directions themselves is the easy part – simply wake your watch by tapping or lifting your arm and then say "OK Google – get directions to home."



3: Let your watch guide you

After you have found and initiated the route, route details will be displayed on your watch screen, together with a vibration each time you need to follow an instruction.

Locate your car anywhere with ease

Fed up with losing your car in a car park? Don't worry – there's an Android Wear app for that

P Have you ever lost your car in a car park? If you answered yes, then Android Wear has you covered. It does happen, and can be insanely frustrating (particularly if it's raining), but thanks to the versatility of Android Wear and an application called My Car Locator, such problems should be a thing of the past.

It's fair to say it's not the prettiest app in the world, but it does do the job. After launching the app on your watch (via "OK Google – start My Car Locator"), just one button-press stores the location on your phone, and adds an icon in the notification area for retrieving the position (a button press on the watch can do the same thing). This is then displayed on a satellite map view, allowing you to return to the exact spot with the minimum of fuss.

Although there is only one application in the Play Store for this purpose, if you are particularly handy with the Tasker application, you could actually make your own. Configure it so that a WearTasker button-press stores your location

in a Tasker variable, and an icon on your smartphone then passes that position to the Google Maps app. That way, you could even get turn-by-turn walking directions back to your car. There's no excuse for wandering a car park aimlessly ever again!

"One button-press stores the location on your phone"

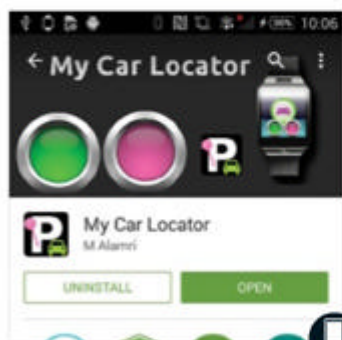


Google Now locator

Google Now actually has basic parking-location tracking built in. It uses Google Play services to determine if you are driving, and then shows a card where it thinks you have parked.

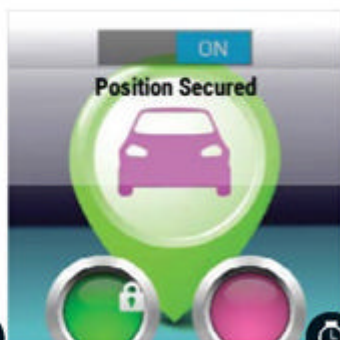
My Car Locator

Store and locate your car's position



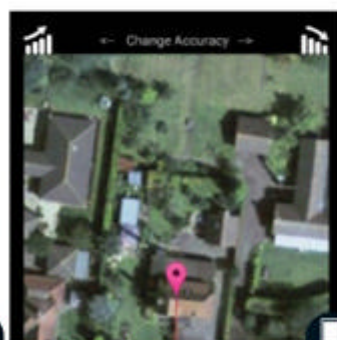
1: Download the app

To locate your car using your Android Wear device, download My Car Locator, a free app from the Play Store. Versions are included for use on your phone and watch.



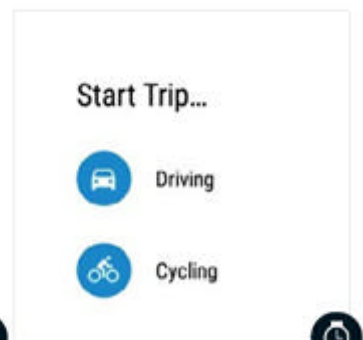
2: Store your parking spot

To store your position, launch the app on your Android Wear device and use the toggle switch at the top to save your current location, using your phone's GPS.



3: Find your car

When ready to find your car, on your watch, press the pink button. This will open a satellite map on your phone showing your current position and parking spot.



4: Track your trip

An alternative app to use is Trip Tracker for Android Wear, which records the whole of your car journeys, as well as the ending position for viewing on a map.

Check your regular commutes

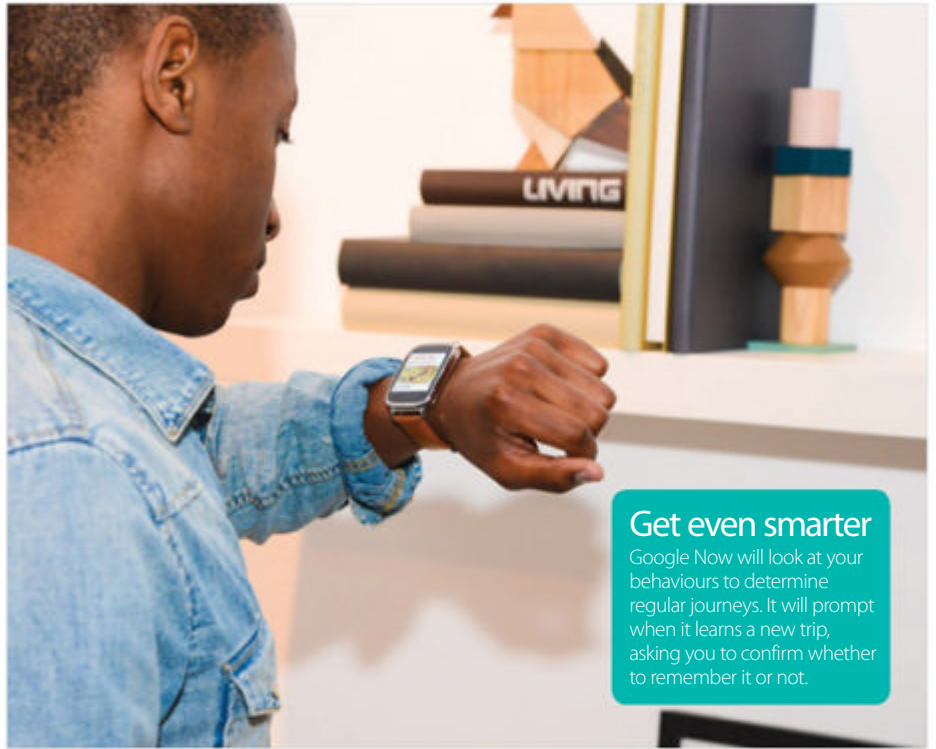
Use the powerful Google Now location features to help you anticipate your journey times to and from home and work



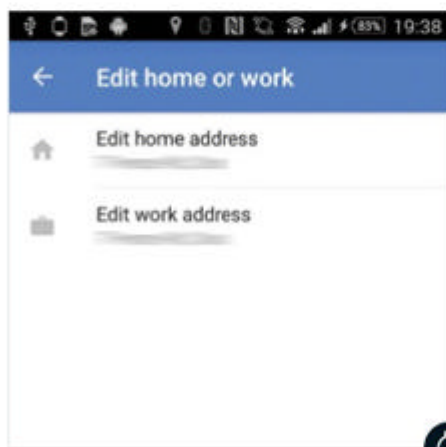
Android Wear is deeply integrated with Google Now, which is Google Search's smart system for showing you information

that is relevant to you at an appropriate time. Google Now uses home and work locations defined in Google Maps, and your location data to determine where you travel to frequently. With this, it then produces relevant cards showing your commute times between those locations based on the current traffic conditions. These Google Now cards display at the bottom of the screen on your Android Wear device, and your phone via the Google Search app or the left-hand pane of the Google Now Launcher. This is pre-installed on Nexus and some Motorola devices, and downloadable via the Play Store. A key requirement is that sharing of your current location data is enabled in the Google Play Services configuration to allow this predictive behaviour.

“Cards show commute times based on traffic conditions”

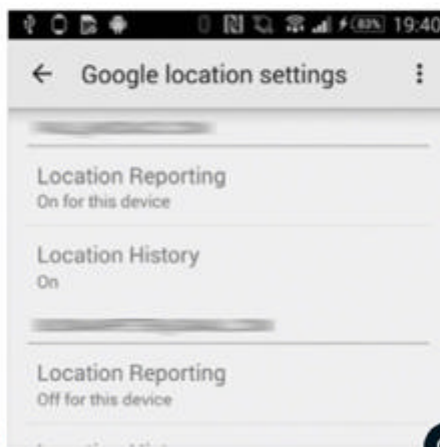


Google Now Enable Google Now commute features



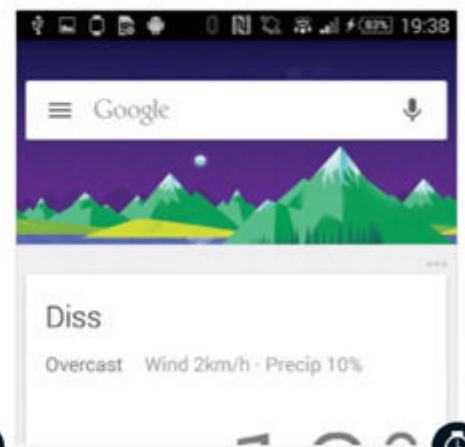
1: Define your locations

Defining your home and work locations is key to making the most of this feature. In the Google Maps application's sidebar Settings page, select Edit home or work.



2: Enable location sharing

From the app launcher on your Android device, run Google Settings and select the Location option. Ensure both the Location Reporting and Location History options are enabled.



3: Check your cards

Google Now commute cards appear on your device in the Google Search app or at the bottom of the screen on your Android Wear watch. Sweep up to scroll through the cards.

Organise your commute schedules

Find out exactly where and when trains are departing to and from your selected destinations, and receive up-to-date station information on your Wear device



Having up-to-date details on train arrivals and departures available on your wrist is a great tool for reducing the chances

of you missing a train. UK Trains for Wear lets you set up stations that you want to receive up-to-date departure and arrival information on. You can also create journeys on the app on your smartphone and then have details on that journey appear on your Android Wear device.

UK Trains for Wear is made exclusively for Wear devices, so journeys you set up on the app will display instantly on your watch. Information displayed includes the departure town, the set time of departure, the expected time of departure and the platform number, so all you have to do is arrive at the station on time. You can set up as many journeys as you like on the app, and add as many stations as you want to view all journeys available from that location.

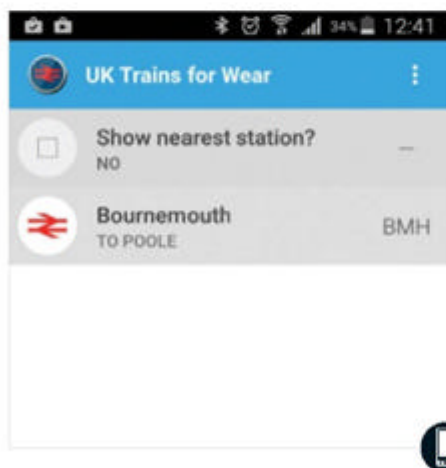
“Set up stations you want to receive up-to-date information on”



Nearby stations

UK Trains for Wear can use your Android's GPS to locate stations nearby. This information will then be sent to your Android Wear device for you to see.

UK Trains for Wear View up-to-date train information



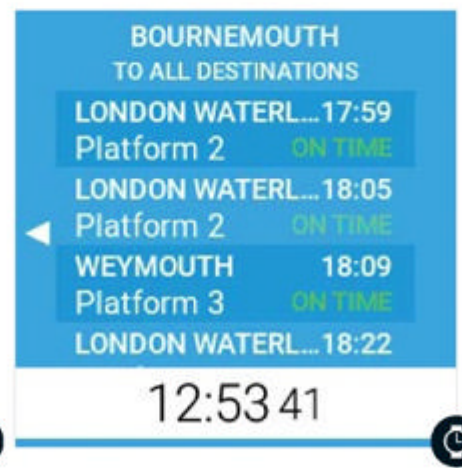
1: Create a journey

Open UK Trains for Wear on your Android smartphone or tablet. Tap the green plus icon and add a station name. Once added, tap on the station name to add a destination.



2: View journeys

Open UK Trains for Wear on your Wear device from the Play menu. The train times for the journey that you set up will appear on the screen. Flick downward to view more journeys.



3: Station information

If you have added a single station to the app without including a destination, flick to the right on your Wear device to view all departures and arrivals from that station.

Send friends your location

Glympse allows you to send a link to a map with your current position that is updated in real-time



Glympse is an extremely useful free application, downloadable from the Play Store, which allows you to send your current position using email, SMS or social networks. After sending the link, the recipient is able to view your position in real time on a map. The map is then continuously updated until the end of the time-window specified at the time of sending, or until you reach your destination (if you've configured automatic expiry on arrival). The app is very useful if you are meeting friends, as you can view both your position and their position on the map in order to rendezvous, or if you just like to have a cup of tea waiting when you return home!

The Android Wear app uses the Glympse favourites feature, together with automatically compiled shortcuts based on your favourite contacts, call log and social-network friends to provide easy-to-use, quick shortcuts. After a Glympse has been sent, a notification shows the time remaining, total viewers and current viewers. Notification buttons allow the Glympse to be expired or extended by 15 minutes. Most



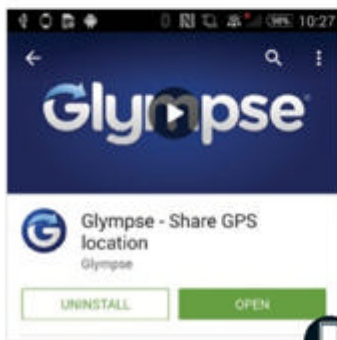
"After sending the link, the recipient can view your position on a map"

current Android Wear devices don't have a GPS built in (the Sony Smartwatch 3 is the notable exception), so the app uses both the data connection and the GPS position from your phone. Because of this, Glympse isn't too heavy on the watch's battery.

Viewing received Glympses

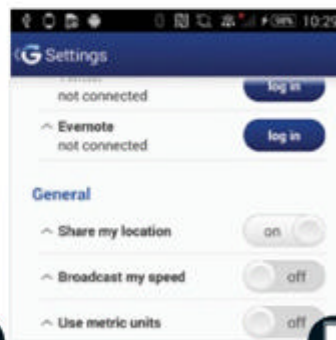
When a Glympse is received, a notification appears on your Android Wear device. This can be clicked in order to view a map directly on the watch.

Glympse Send your current location to others



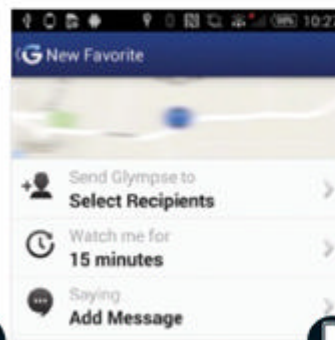
1: Download the app

Download Glympse free from the Play Store. It includes apps for the phone and Android Wear devices – the watch app is effectively a remote control for the phone app.



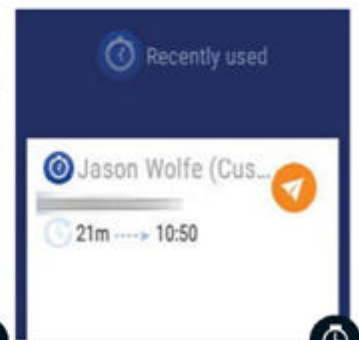
2: Configure the settings

Glympse is configured on your phone. It can connect to Facebook and Twitter, and you can set display units, enable automatic expiry and prevent it sharing your speed.



3: Add your favourites

To send a Glympse from your watch, configure favourites for your most common journeys. Favourites will be automatically synced to your Android Wear device.



4: Send a Glympse

Synced favourites appear in the main UI, launched using "OK Google, Start Glympse." Sweeping up and down displays Glympses based on call or recent activity.

Keep track of your reservations

Receive AirBnB reservations on your wrist using Google Now and your Android Wear device, and stay up to date with your future bookings



AirBnB is a cost-effective, reliable and safe way to find great accommodation anywhere in the world from your Android device.

Bookings are made through the app to rent rooms and entire properties for short and long stays alike. If you have Google Now fully up to date on your Android smartphone and tablet, and the latest version of AirBnB installed, then you might notice the next time you make a reservation on AirBnB that the details of the booking will be added straight to your Google Calendar. You will also receive notifications on Google Now about your upcoming stays booked through AirBnB, which is very useful.

Android Wear means that details of your stay will now also be available on your wrist. Now that the AirBnB app is compatible with both Google Now and Android Wear, it makes booking a trip even easier than it was before. See for yourself...

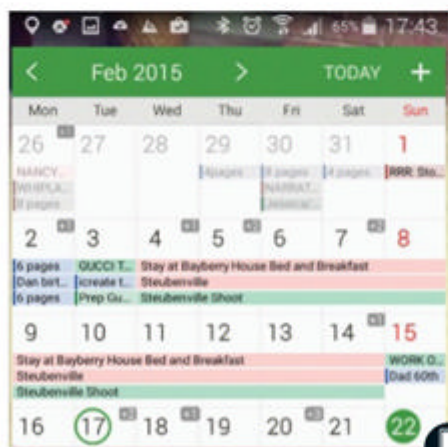
“Details of your stay will now be available on your wrist”

AirBnB [View a booking](#)



Sync with Google Now

More and more apps are now syncing with Google Now, adding data to your Calendar and other Google apps as necessary, to help organise upcoming events for you.



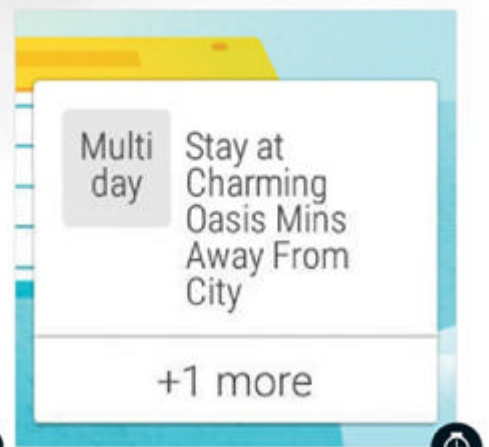
1: Create a booking

Once you've made a booking on AirBnB, the name of the booking (in this case 'Stay at Charming Oasis Mins Away From City') will be added to your Google Calendar.



2: Get reminded

When you are getting close to the arrival date of your booking, you will see a small notification appear on your Wear device in the form of a Google Now reminder.



3: View the full reminder

Drag upward on the reminder to view more details on the booking you made through AirBnB. Swipe to the right to dismiss the reminder once you've read it.

Track the weather changes

Keep an eye on the weather and predicted forecasts with the InstaWeather for Android Wear app, and never get caught out in the rain again



InstaWeather puts the weather on your watch face and provides an avalanche of weather and meteorological info on the face of your Wear device.

It comes in two versions: InstaWeather, made to run off your phone or tablet, and InstaWeather for Android Wear, a standalone app built exclusively to feed weather information to your Wear device.

The Android Wear version of the app provides two key tools. First, you can change your device's watch face to one that displays InstaWeather info, providing a variation of watch faces that display a weather radar, incoming forecast info, current temperatures and other meteorological information. Other watch faces show rain and snow reports, and satellite coverage of your area. Forecasts can be adjusted to display the hourly, daily and weekly forecast. You can also receive severe weather alerts across the US and Europe, sending the



"Keep an eye on the weather and forecasts with InstaWeather"

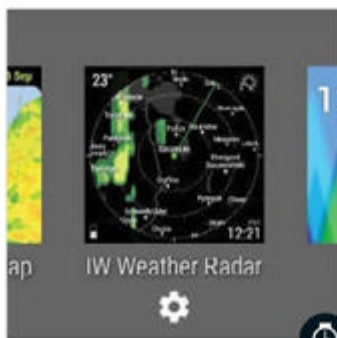
alert directly to your watch. InstaWeather on your Wear device can be adjusted to your own specs. You can use the app exclusively to find out if it's going to be sunny, or set up radar info to display participation changes and find out what the current humidity level of the air is.

Satellite view

The Satellite view option found in the InstaWeather interface settings on your Wear device is a great way to get an overview on your current location and weather patterns.

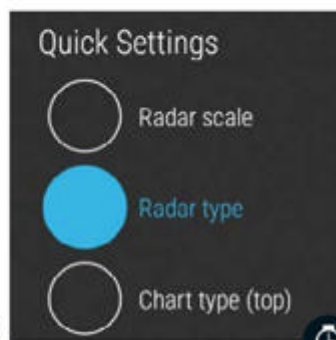
InstaWeather

Monitor the weather and forecasts



1: Select a watch face

Press and hold on your watch face. Browse the watch face options until you find the set of InstaWeather faces. There are six InstaWeather watch faces for you to choose from.



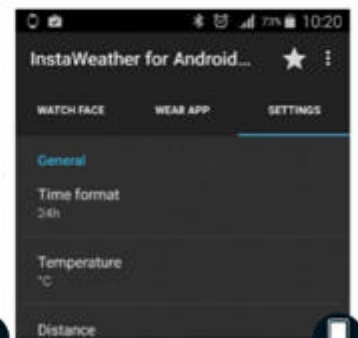
2: Modify the display

Tap on the Settings icon under the watch face preview. From here you can modify the display of that particular watch face, and choose radar and chart types and scales.



3: Start the app

Say "OK Google, start InstaWeather" or use the start option to run the app. Double tap on the watch face to change the display and view different radar and weather info.



4: Adjust the settings

Open the InstaWeather for Android Wear app on your phone or tablet. In Settings, adjust measurement types screen activity for InstaWeather on your Wear device.

Take photos using your Android Wear

Your Android Wear device can function both as a simple remote shutter button for your device's camera, or even a remote viewfinder



An Android Wear device makes a very good companion for the camera on your phone or tablet, whether you are someone that

loves to take selfies or you want to use your watch to trigger photos when you are away from your device. Camera functionality isn't included in the built-in camera app provided by your device manufacturer, unless you are using one of the Nexus range, which means in order to enable the feature you need to download one of a number of applications available from the Play Store. Basic functionality is provided by Google's own camera app, with additional features courtesy of third-party applications. Both taking still images and video recording are supported, as well as advanced features such as camera switching, zoom and even voice control, making your Android Wear device a useful photography tool. Live viewfinder is the most impressive camera feature.

"Taking still images and video recording are supported"



Do you need it?

With PixtoCam installed, you can say "OK Google, start Viewfinder" to open the app and even enable picture taking via a wrist flick gesture by long pressing the display.

Google Camera

Remote control your camera with Android Wear



1: Install Google Camera

To enable camera functionality on your Wear device, install the Google Camera app. When launched on your phone or tablet, a shutter button appears on your watch.



2: Take control

PixtoCam takes camera control to the next level, providing a live view of the camera on your device, as well as a wealth of additional controls for camera, flash, resolution and more.



3: Use a timer

A useful feature in PixtoCam is the timer button. This allows you to line up the shot and initiate the timer with one of a number of predefined durations available.

Read the news on your device

The Android Wear app from Thomson Reuters lets you keep up to date with breaking news and stock markets, all from the comfort of your watch



Android Wear devices are great for consuming small tidbits of information, but you wouldn't want to read a book on them – for that reason, news applications for your watch are typically fairly basic. In general, the news apps that are available offer news notifications only, which is the same as you could achieve with, for example, notification sync and the BBC News app.

One exception is the Thomson Reuters Eikon application, which allows you to browse headlines as well as information on the markets on your device, opening an item for reading at your convenience on your connected phone if you see something that is of interest. An alternative option is using an RSS/Feedly app, such as Palabre, to view feeds on your watch. This allows support for a specific set of newsfeeds tailored to your interests, as well as better sync of what you have already read.

“Browse headlines as well as information on the markets”

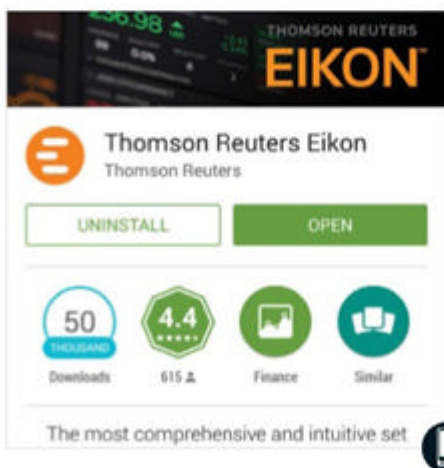


Other news apps

News Republic is a truly excellent cross-provider news-reading application, which sends breaking-news alerts to your Android Wear device, and also offers news summaries each morning on your smartphone.

Thomson Reuters Eikon

Get the news and stock-market updates



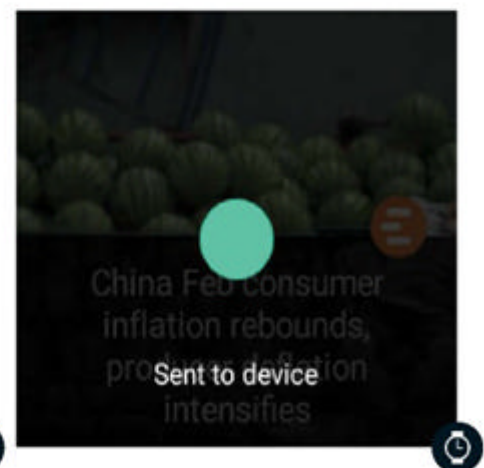
1: Install the application

Thomson Reuters Eikon is a free install from the Google Play Store for your phone and Wear device. It's one of the few Wear news apps that offers more than just notifications.



2: Browse the news

After launching the app, you can view either breaking news (sweep sideways to switch stories) or market details. Unfortunately the app could do with round-screen optimisation!



3: Read on your device

If you want to read a story in full, swiping in any up or down movement on the headline will open it in the Thomson Reuters app on your connected phone.

Relay recipes to your Android Wear

When you're cooking a meal in the kitchen, you don't want to get the ingredients all over your phone or tablet, so use your watch instead!



You might think that cooking using an Android Wear device won't work very well, but in fact the opposite is true – using the Cookpad app is a great example of the versatility of the platform. The reason that it works so well is because recipes are split down into very small chunks that can be displayed on the watch screen.

Aside from an image of the finished product, the app is not very graphical, but even so it works very well.

The app includes a huge library of recipes that can be easily sent to your watch, and it even helps you buy the right ingredients when you are at the supermarket.

The app also includes a meal planner, social features and of course the ability to add your own recipes too! The Android Wear app syncs with the phone app which, in turn, syncs with the Cookpad website.

“Recipes are split down into very small chunks on the watch”

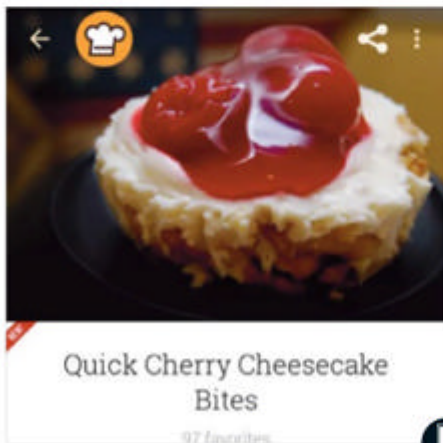


At the supermarket

The shopping-list view can be launched directly from the Start Allthecooks item on the watch. Items can be checked off as they are purchased, with changes syncing back to your phone.

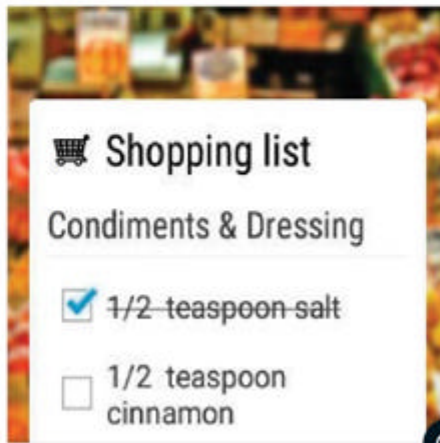
Cookpad

Buy for and prepare a recipe



1: Send the recipe

To use a recipe on your device, you first need to find and favourite it in the phone app. Press a recipe's 'heart' icon in order to make it available on your watch.



2: Prepare a shopping list

In each recipe there is a 'shop' icon which, when pressed, will display a list of ingredients. Tick the required items to add them to your on-watch shopping list.



3: Cook the recipe

A notification card will appear for favourite recipes on the device or the 'open on watch' button can be pressed from the phone. Swipe left and right to view the recipe steps.

Calculate the right gratuity tip amount

Tip calculator is a well-designed, easy-to-use app for calculating a tip percentage on your Android Wear device



Some of the best Android Wear apps are those that perform relatively simple functions, but in a well-designed and easy-to-use way.

The biggest mistake an app can make is over-complicating things with such a tiny amount of real-estate, and this is exactly why Tip Calculator works.

First, it's doing something simple but useful. It's not over-burdened with features (although a bill-splitting option would be a simple addition), but it's still good at what it needs to do.

Second, it looks great and makes changing bill cost and percentage values on the watch as easy as they can be, courtesy of the circular UI.

The good thing about having this sort of app on Android Wear is that, should your mental arithmetic not quite be up to scratch on the night, you can subtly work out what you want to leave as a tip without having to get your phone out. A number of different tip calculators are available on the Play Store, including some



"It's not over-burdened with features, but it's still good at what it needs to do"

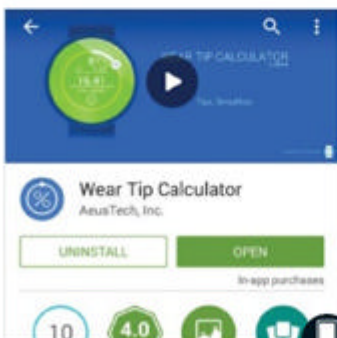
that are provided as part of a suite – so if the design of this one doesn't work for you, there are others that you may find better. Some designs work better on devices with a round face (as we have here) and some are better on a square watch.

Quick launch tips

To launch the app in a restaurant, you're not likely to want to talk to your watch. A launcher application (such as Wear Mini Launcher) will make the calculator much easier to access.

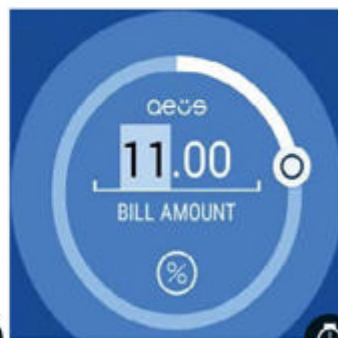
Tip Calculator

Calculate tips quickly and easily



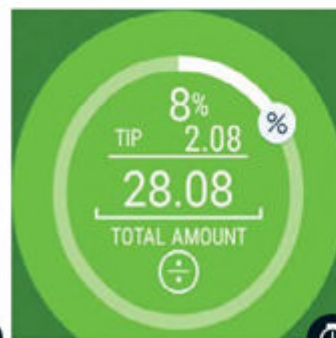
1: Install the application

In order to use Tip Calculator on your Android Wear device, you first need to install it from the Play Store as it's not included by default. It's absolutely free to download.



2: Enter the amount

After launching the app, click either side of the decimal point on the bill amount and use the clever wheel to change the amount. The maximum amount is £100.99.



3: Enter the percentage

After pressing the '%' button, the wheel changes the tip percentage, with the tip field updating in real time as you move. It's a very well-designed app.



4: Be more advanced

For something more advanced (and amounts over £100.99), download a calculator app, like Calculator for Android Wear, and work the tip out the old fashioned way!

Use your watch as a universal remote

Your Android watch device can control a host of other devices, from Android TV boxes to a Windows PC and beyond



Even though Android Wear devices are useful in their own right, some of their most powerful uses come when they are connected to other things. Android already interfaces with many systems out there, and the list of suitable partners for Android Wear continues to grow. You can control your Windows, Mac or Linux PC; an Android TV device, your phone and your phone's camera.

One of the most impressive feats of connectivity comes via an app called Galaxy Universal Remote. This app provides a phone/tablet and Wear UI, and makes use of the IR blaster included on phones such as the Samsung Galaxy range, LG G3 and Xiaomi Mi4.

Using this app, your watch can control just about anything that uses an infrared remote. As more devices become connected to the internet due to the growth of the Internet of Things, the scope will widen further.

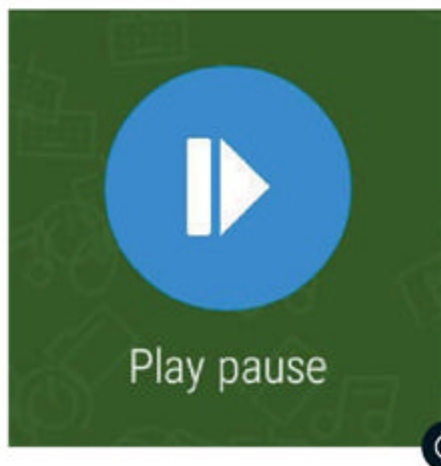
Your home and your car are certainly fair game for Wear control in the future. This is already starting to be realised today with the Philips Hue range of connected lighting, for which a number of Android Wear apps are already available.

Unified Remote Control your kit with Android Wear



1: Android TV Remote Control

The Android TV Remote Control app from the Play Store includes an Android Wear notification card, which appears when your phone is connected to an Android TV device.



2: Unified Remote

The Unified Remote application allows you to control your Windows/Mac/Linux PC. Connections configured on your phone are synced to your Android Wear device too.



3: Control your phone

You can control your phone from your Wear device too – the Tasker application lets you do whatever you please at a click of a button on your watch.

Wear media notifications

See just how your Android Wear uses the media playback framework

Checking for a card

When you are playing back media, wake your device and swipe up from the bottom of the screen. If a media control card is available, this is where it would be

Chromecast support

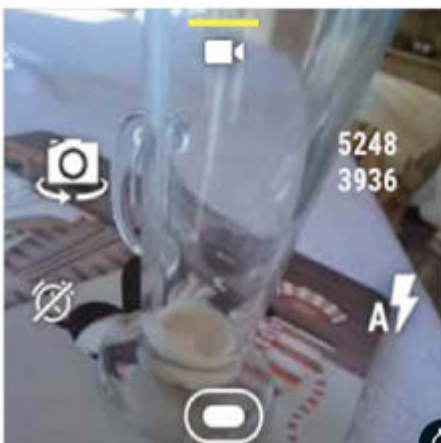
When you are playing content on your Chromecast, you will normally see a card displayed. You'll find this is far more convenient than using your phone to control the playback

Control your car!

Why stop at your home when you can use your Wear device to control your car? A growing number of manufacturers have apps available in the Play Store and Android Wear support is increasing. A fine example is the Hyundai Blue Link app, which can remote lock, unlock and start a compatible car! You can also honk the horn from the app.

Dismissing the card

The media card should automatically disappear when you finish playing the content, but if it does not do this, use the recent apps switcher to close the corresponding app on your phone



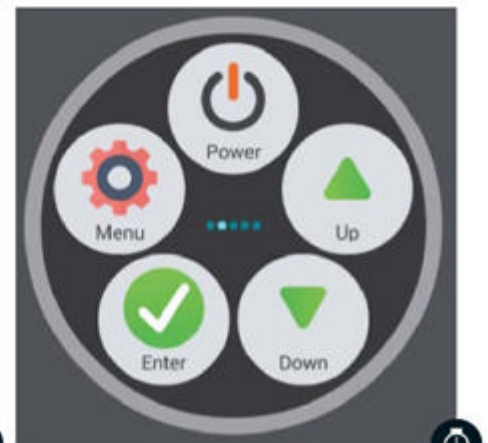
4: Control your camera

A number of remote shutter apps are available in the Play Store, including PixtoCam, which provides a huge amount of control over your device, even including a live viewfinder.



5: Control your Plex

If you use the Plex application and server for media playback on your device, you'll be pleased to hear that control buttons appear on screen when playback is in progress.



6: Become a universal remote

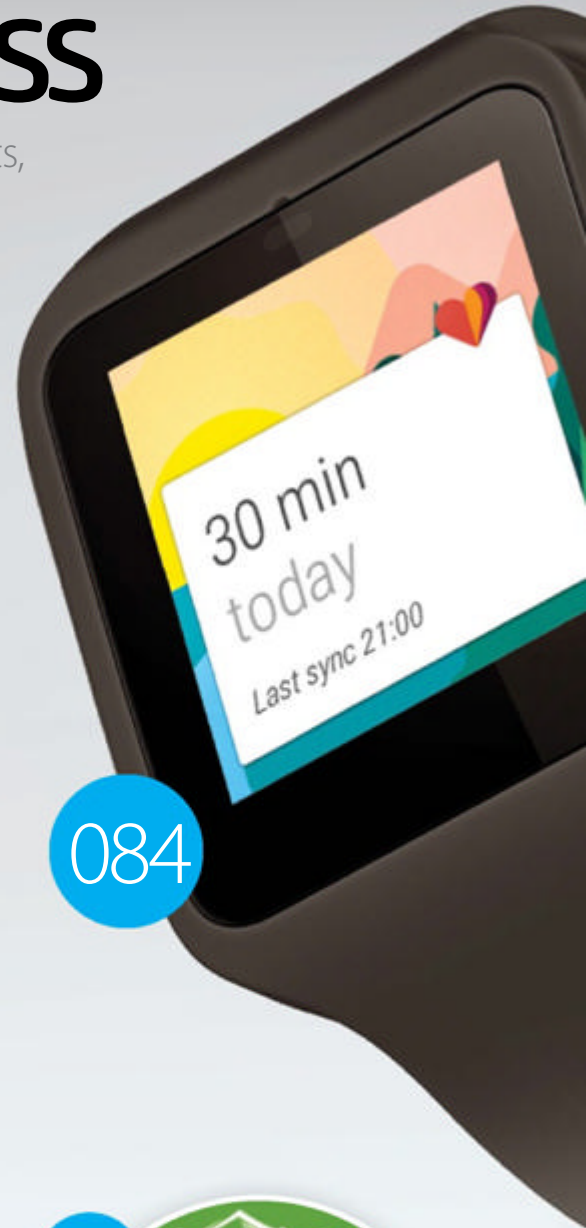
If you are using a support device, Galaxy Universal Remote can turn your Wear device into a real universal infrared remote to control all of the kit in your home.



Health & Fitness

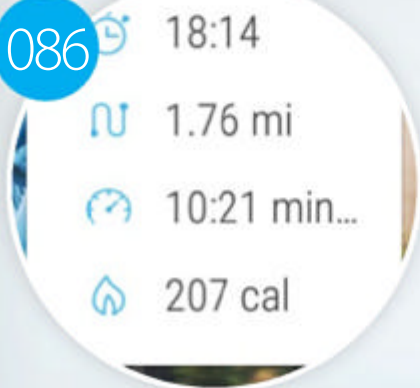
Keep track of your fitness, set goals, keep to those targets, manage your runs and more from your Wear device

- 084** **Monitor with Google Fit**
Utilise the built-in apps to track your fitness
- 085** **Track your daily steps**
Keep to your daily step targets
- 086** **Measure your daily exercise**
Get running with Runtastic
- 087** **Reach your exercise targets**
Set goals with Runkeeper
- 088** **Earn motivating fitness badges**
Use Pocket Runner to be motivated
- 089** **Improve your concentration**
Change how you work with Liip Pomodoro
- 090** **Log your fitness progression**
Use Endomondo to keep to targets
- 091** **Monitor and upload your fitness data**
Use FitCloud to monitor your regime
- 092** **Keep time when you exercise**
Pace yourself during exercise
- 093** **Up your fitness**
Get fit with NexTrack
- 094** **Follow your trek route**
Go for walks with Trek Ranger GPS
- 095** **Workout in seven minutes**
Get fit with 7 Minute Workout
- 096** **Find nearby activity trails**
Use Komoot to find adventures
- 097** **Ensure you stay hydrated**
Harness Drink Well to keep hydrated
- 098** **Watch your alcohol intake**
Program My Vice Pal to calculate your intake
- 099** **Eat well and lose weight**
Use My Diet Chef to keep on track
- 100** **Set timers and intervals with your watch**
Get your intervals to work harder
- 101** **Improve your sleeping patterns**
Sleep better at night with Sleep As Android

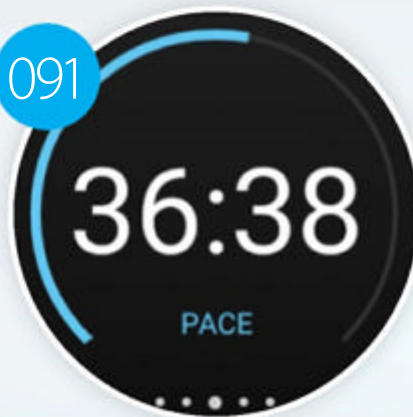


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086



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094



“Even if you are consciously trying to keep track, you can forget to write it down, whether on your smartphone or in a logbook”



Monitor with Google Fit

Discover how you can use your Android Wear device in order to monitor your levels of exercise



When trying to stay aware of just how much exercise you have done over a day, it's really easy to forget a jog to the shops or the morning walk with the dog.

Even if you are consciously trying to keep track, you can forget to write it down, whether on your smartphone or in a logbook.

Your Android Wear device is extremely helpful when it comes to this, as it keeps track of how much walking you do – more on that later – but also keeps you informed of how much exercise you have done that day and how close you are to whatever target you have set yourself. Some of the data does need to be inputted manually after downloading Google Fit onto your smartphone or tablet, but the real benefit is the reminder on your smartwatch that keeps you up to date with your daily exercise stats.

This exercise can be in the form of walking, running or cycling, and at the end of the day your total is tallied up and placed in a graph so you can keep a close eye on how your week is



"The reminder on your smartwatch keeps you up to date"

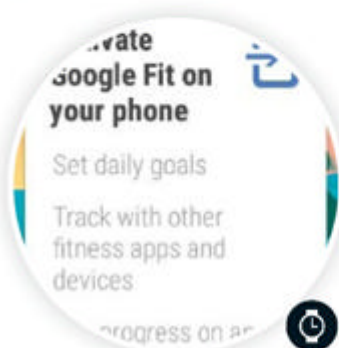
progressing and alter your target accordingly. This tutorial shows you how to activate Google Fit on your phone and look at your daily and weekly exercise statistics on the go with your Android Wear device.

The app

The app is responsible for logging all your various activities, such as running or cycling. You can add your weight, height, gender and so on, so you can get accurate results for your calorie output.

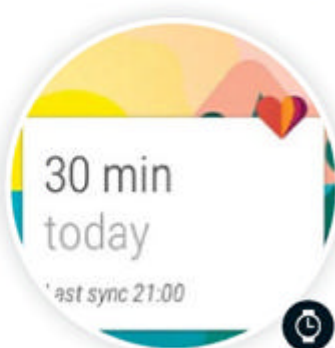
Google Fit

Stay aware of your exercise time



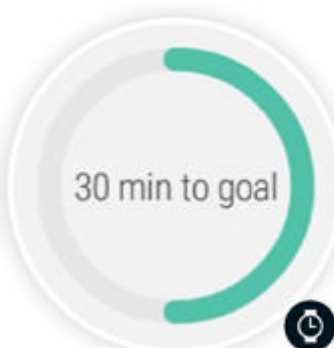
1: Activate Google Fit

Swipe right on your Android Wear device to bring up a direct link for downloading Google Fit on your Android device. Download the app for your phone.



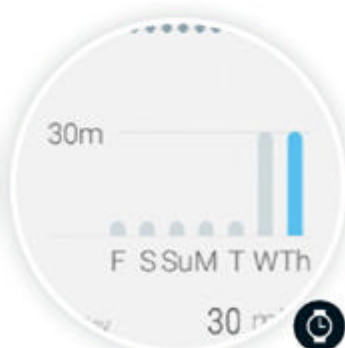
2: Track daily output

Swipe down from the watch face in order to see exactly how much exercise you have done that day. This will be manually or automatically updated.



3: See your progress

Swipe to the right to bring up a circle that gives a visual showing of how close you are to your daily goal. This can be altered on a daily basis. It ranks time, not intensity.



4: Compare your week

See how well you've done over the previous week by swiping right and clicking on the History icon. This will bring up a weekly graph. More detailed analysis is on the app.

Track your daily steps with a step tracker

Make sure you are getting all the exercise you need by letting your Android Wear device count your steps and keep a record of your weekly progress

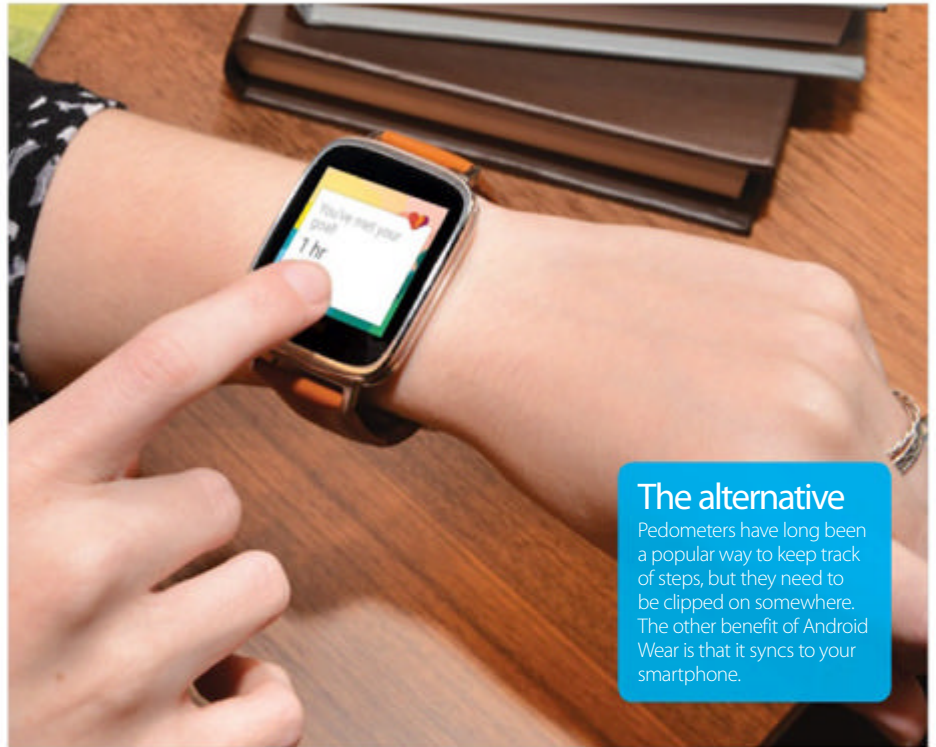


Health experts are regularly telling us that we're not getting enough exercise. Even those

outside the medical industry, such as Apple CEO Tim Cook, is getting involved, telling us that sitting down is having a severe impact on our health. Just a small amount of exercise can have a huge benefit on physical health, which is where the Android Wear Step Tracker comes into play. This feature comes pre loaded with the device and uses the gyroscope inside the watch to keep track of how many steps you are taking each day. That way you can keep tabs on if you've had an active or lazy day, and take action to right it if you've fallen short of your target.

As well as tracking your daily total, Step Tracker also logs your last seven days so you can attempt to beat your personal best. This tutorial shows you how to view your total steps as well as the last week's worth of exercise.

"Keep track of how many steps you are taking each day"



The alternative

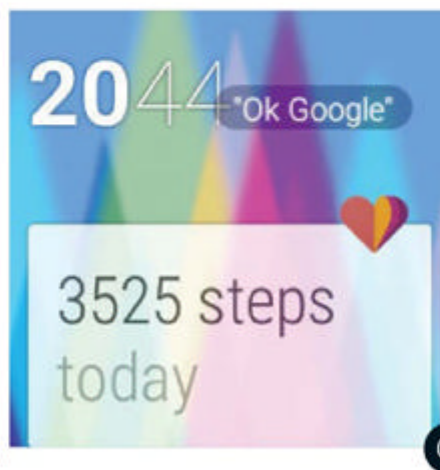
Pedometers have long been a popular way to keep track of steps, but they need to be clipped on somewhere. The other benefit of Android Wear is that it syncs to your smartphone.

Step Tracker Monitor how many steps you take



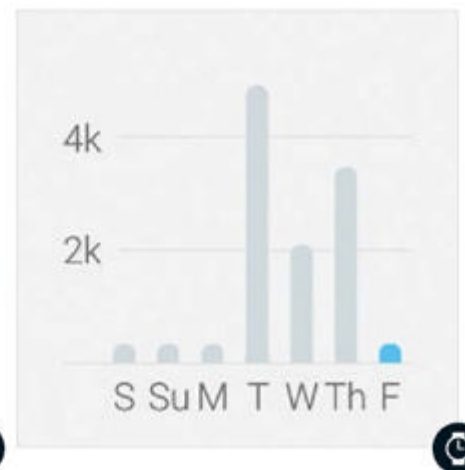
1: Take the first step

Step Tracker will count your steps as soon as you put your watch on. Swipe the card away and it will vanish until the next day. If you're quick, swipe down and press 'Dismiss'.



2: View your steps

If you have swept your tracker away, say 'Okay Google' into your watch. This will bring up the option to 'Show me my steps'. This will tell you how many steps you're on for the day.



3: Check your progress

To compare to the rest of the week, swipe to the left. This will bring up a chart that will show a line graph detailing your weekly steps. Scroll down for a numerical reading.

Measure your daily exercise

Use the Runtastic app as a simple and effective way to keep track of your daily runs and cycles without all the unnecessary added statistics

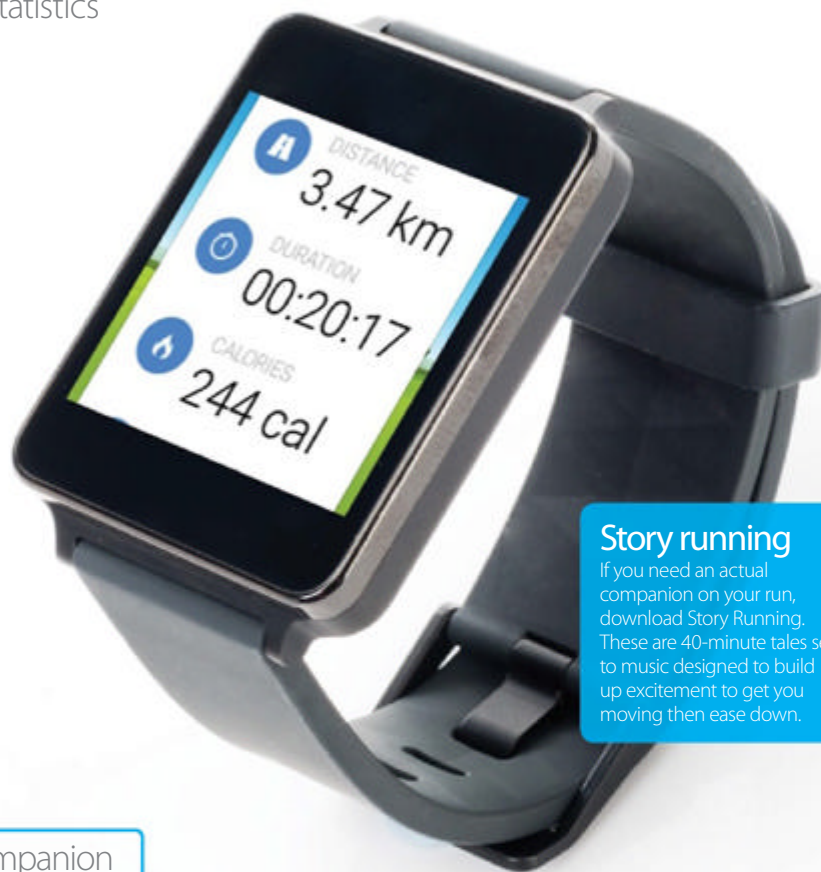


Many health and fitness apps fall into the trap of trying to do far too much.

While there are plenty of people who want to share training routes, measure split times and keep elaborate exercise diaries, there is also a huge number that just wants to strap on a pair of trainers, press a button and start running, cycling or walking. For those people, Runtastic is the ideal training partner.

The basic version maps your route and measures your average pace, top speed, distance, time and calorie expenditure. It sends a very thorough breakdown of your exercise session to your Android Wear device so you can keep informed of how close you are to your target time, distance or calorie expenditure without having to look at your phone. This tutorial explains how to get Runtastic running quickly so you can do exactly the same.

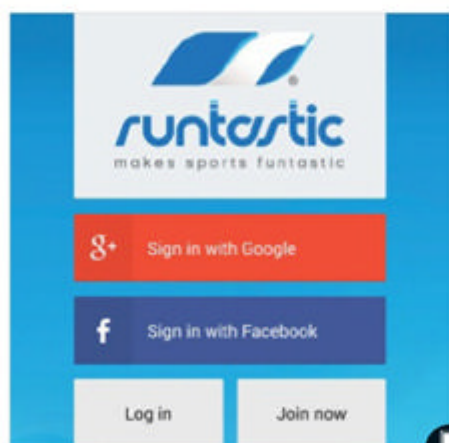
"It sends a thorough breakdown of your exercise session"



Story running

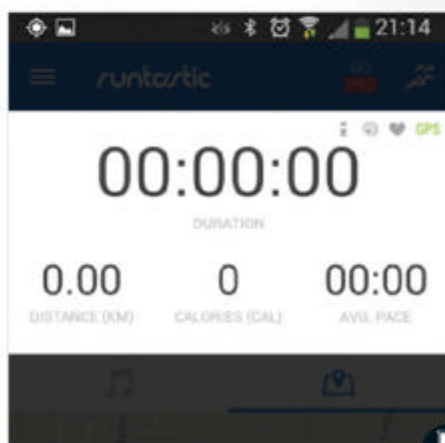
If you need an actual companion on your run, download Story Running. These are 40-minute tales set to music designed to build up excitement to get you moving then ease down.

Runtastic The simple running companion



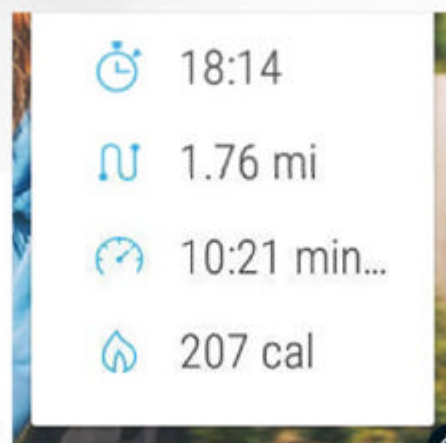
1: Download and sync

Download the app from the Google Play Store. There is an option in the Settings to connect a smartwatch, but we found it synced automatically when connected via Bluetooth.



2: Swipe and run

Swipe downward on your phone or right on your Android Wear device. Make sure you're ready as the clock starts straight away. Tap to pause if you're not quite ready to start.



3: Check your stats

The History settings on your Android Wear device or smartphone give a detailed breakdown of your run. Analysis on the watch was the most detailed of our trialed apps.

Reach your exercise targets

Prepare your strategy in advance with training plans to reach your goals with the Runkeeper app



If you've inadvertently signed up for a 10k run, or bet a friend that you can lose a stone by the end of the month, the first few steps can be quite daunting. It's all too easy to run or cycle until you're exhausted, blistered and fed up, before throwing your trainers in the cupboard and giving up.

Runkeeper would prove a very useful companion to have, as it offers a wide range of training programs for free, making those first few steps far less likely to be your last. Making the most of these can ease you into the exercise game and put you well on the way to achieving your goals with small, manageable increments and plans of when to go. As an added incentive you can also keep your friends in the loop and set alerts to remind you to go on your next run.

Runkeeper is easy to manage with a friendly interface showing how close you are to your goals, and what personal records you've



achieved to keep motivated. During the run it shouts a variety of statistics, such as your time, distance and average speed, so you have an idea of how your run is going, which allows you to manage it effectively. Now see how to plan a target and establish a training regime to stick to.

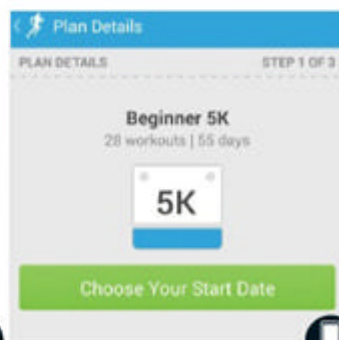
Find your friends

Runkeeper gives you the option to share your runs and your progress with your friends. This can be altered in the Settings where you can change who sees your results.

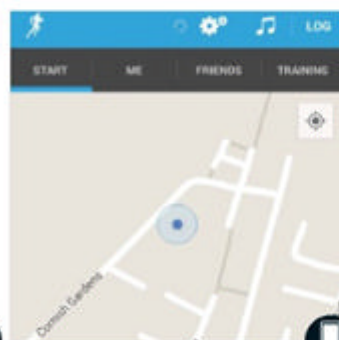
Runkeeper Plan a training workout



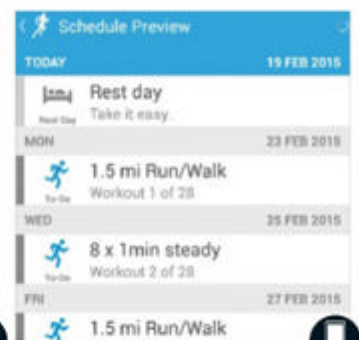
1: Sign up to Runkeeper
Download the app and complete the registration. This is important, as you may need Runkeeper to remind you of your schedule to keep you on track with your program.



2: Select a training regime
Under the Training heading, there are several options. The more elaborate are paid but there are free ones too. Select an option, a start date and a target time.



3: Complete a workout
Get on your running shoes, press start on your Android Wear device and run. The app will keep you informed of your distance and timings so you stick to the program.



4: Check your schedule
Check your schedule to see when your next run is and what type it will be. The app schedules in rests and specific activities, but you can tap the workout to change this.

Earn motivating fitness badges

Earn badges in order to motivate you to keep exercising, as you achieve your fitness goals



Once you've managed to convince yourself to start running, it can be quite easy to get frustrated with a lack of progress or bored with the monotony of exercise.

To keep enthusiasm high, Pocket Runner has developed an app that keeps you motivated to achieve further distances through the use of badges. Every milestone you reach will result in you being awarded a badge. These vary from your first successful outing to running on a Friday night, so you'll be rewarded for a range of things on a regular basis. The app also provides you with simple statistics, such as the distance you've run for the month, total time spent running, and many more.

This is a very thorough app that is clearly aimed at the social side of exercise. As well as the statistics and badges, you can also see where you rank compared to your friends and contacts in terms of running time, which is a nice feature for the competitively minded.

Pocket Runner syncs up well with Android Wear, but does only provide limited information during your run. It alerts you at the end of

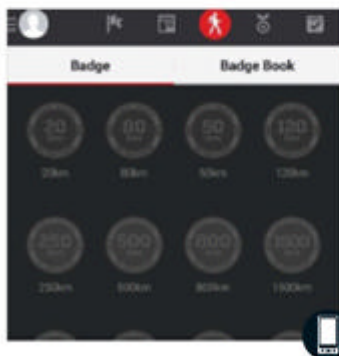
your run if the upload to the app has been successful, which is a useful touch as it keeps you from having to check it has been synced properly. This tutorial will take you through the basics of Pocket Runner and how to check out your running statistics.



Share option

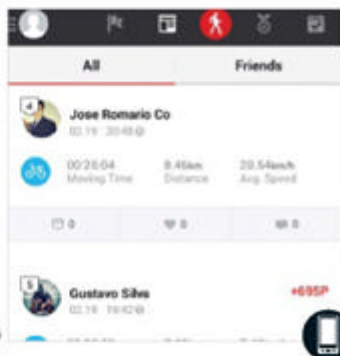
If you go into the Settings from the hamburger menu you can decide which of your friends sees your activity. You can also block friends from seeing your activity, should you wish.

Pocket Runner Check your badges, friends and updates



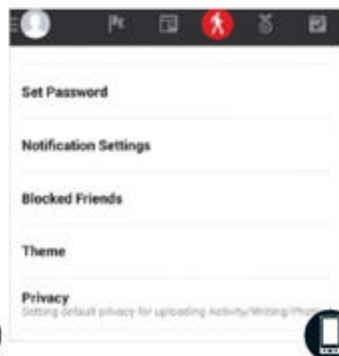
1: Earn your badges

After setting up the app and going on your run, you'll be alerted to the number of badges you've earned. Your first run will earn you lots, like the welcome badge.



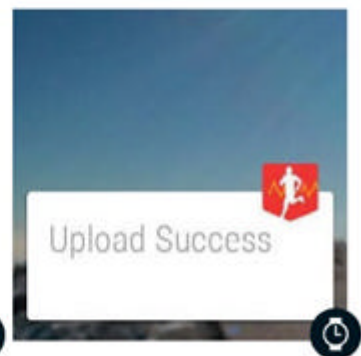
2: Compare to friends

Signing in to the app finds other people in the area who use Pocket Runner. Here you can compete against them to see who has run the most in that month.



3: Check your stats

Head into the settings by clicking the hamburger menu on the left. This will give you the option to open your statistics from recent runs and compare against others.



4: See the update

Once your run has finished and you've stopped tracking on your watch/phone, your Wear device should update the app. You will get a notification when complete.

Improve your concentration

Work in 25-minute-long increments and increase your productivity with the pomodoro technique using the incredibly simple Liip Pomodoro app



If you're not familiar with the pomodoro technique, it's an approach to the working day that has the potential to increase your

productivity, and reduce stress and fatigue. Lots of research has been done looking into the pomodoro technique, and it is a much-loved approach to increasing productivity for a lot of people. The basic concept is that during a working period, you take a five-minute break every 25 minutes.

The Liip Pomodoro app is about as simple as the pomodoro technique itself. To run the app, all you have to do is make sure the timer is running, and after 25 minutes you will receive a notification to take a five-minute break. Liip Pomodoro will even sync itself with your Android Wear device, so once the 25-minute work session is up, your watch will vibrate, prompting you to take your five-minute break. It couldn't be simpler.

"After 25 minutes you will be notified to take a five-minute break"



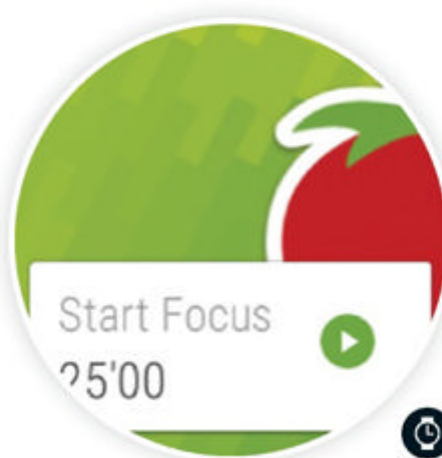
Liip Pomodoro

Get reminders to take a break



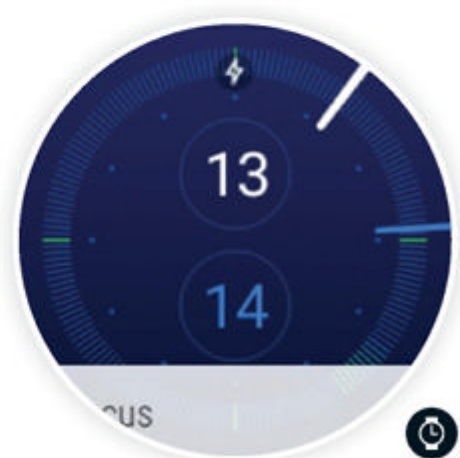
1: Run Liip Pomodoro

Double tap on your Android Wear device, swipe down and tap Start. You'll find the Liip Pomodoro app in your list of apps. Tap it to start running it on your Wear device.



2: Start Focus

The Start Focus icon will appear on the home screen on your Android Wear device. When you are ready to start your 25 minute log work session tap on it and the timer will begin.



3: Review your session

When Focus appears on your Android Wear device press and drag upwards to see how long you have of that current work session. You will receive a notice when the session is finished.

Log your fitness progression

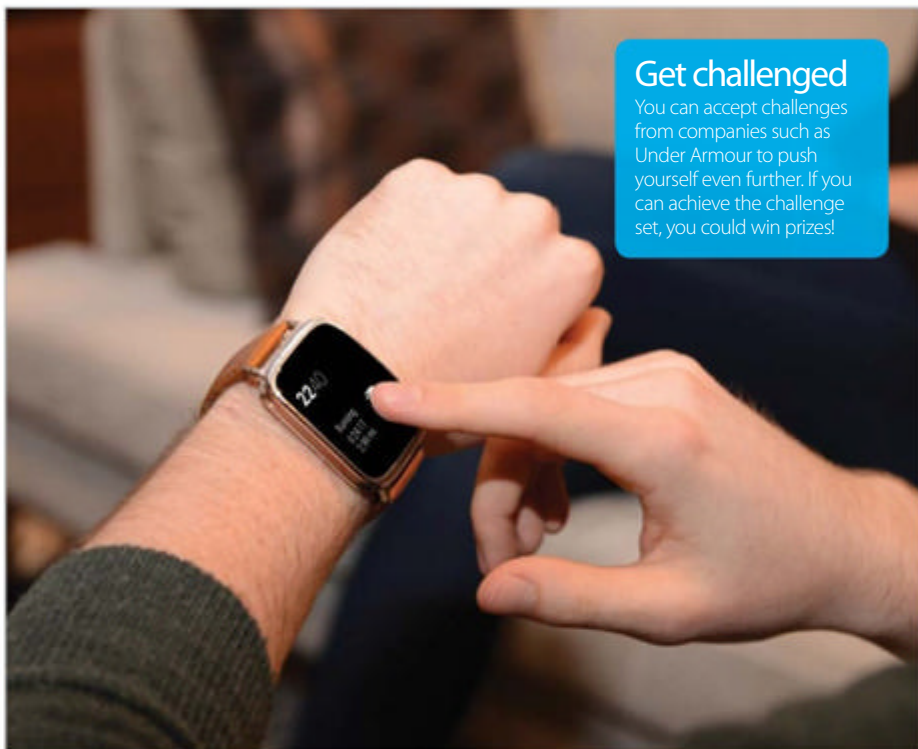
Decide what goals you want to achieve, and work your way to reaching them with the Endomondo exercise companion and activity tracker



The problem with many training plans available online is that often they don't take into account your, potentially erratic, schedule. A

bleep to tell you to strap on your running shoes just as you're strapping the kids into the car isn't particularly useful or motivating, and a strict routine can be demoralising for many people. If you've got the self motivation to set your own training plan, Endomondo might be a great option for you to use with your Android Wear device. This well-designed fitness app is great for keeping you up to date with your progress. It also appeals to the competitive spirit inside you by allowing you to challenge your friends, which is another excellent way to stay motivated. You can also save particular routes to try and beat your personal best. This tutorial will show you how to set challenges, track your progress and measure your runs.

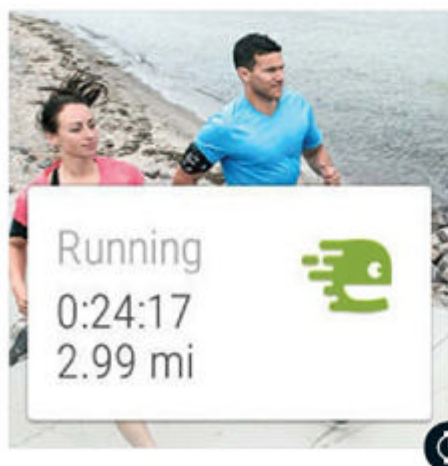
"Great for keeping you up to date with your progress"



Get challenged

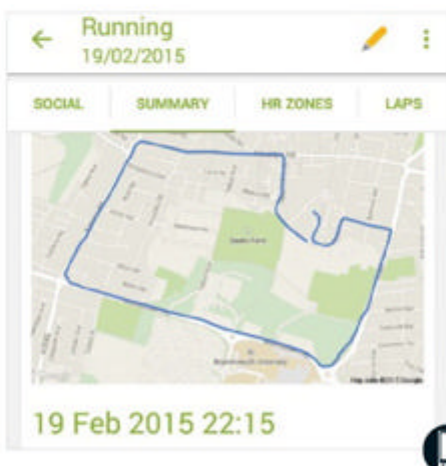
You can accept challenges from companies such as Under Armour to push yourself even further. If you can achieve the challenge set, you could win prizes!

Endomondo Keep up to date with your fitness progress



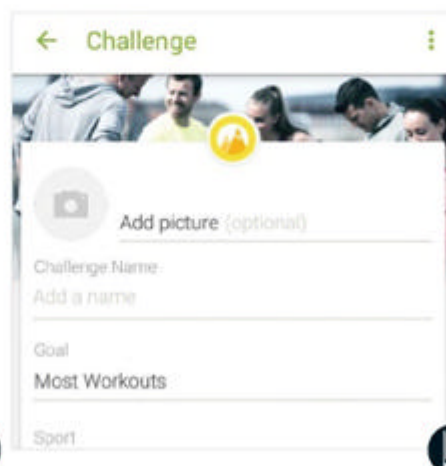
1: Track your run

Sync Endomondo to your Wear device and get running. The app is very simple, just providing your distance and time so you can concentrate on your running with minimal distractions.



2: Check your stats

Check more in-depth details. This screen provides an excellent breakdown of lots of stats from your run. The History settings will allow you to compare stats such as average speed.



3: Challenge friends

Go into the hamburger menu in the top left-hand corner and click Challenges. This will let you set a goal for selected friends, such as most workouts in a week.

Monitor and upload your fitness data

Monitor every aspect of your workout regime, recording everything from distance travelled to heart rate, then save the stored data to your cloud services



FitCloud Running and Cycling can assist you in monitoring and tracking your exercise routines. It

isn't exclusively made to help you out when you go for a run or a cycle either. The creators of FitCloud, **sportstracklive.com**, boast that the app can use GPS to track outdoor activities as well as has sensors for tracking indoor activities. This means that you can pair the app with heart-rate and temperature-monitor gear for more accurate results. Sensor devices can come in the guise of wristbands, head bands, watches and other wearable devices. They can greatly improve the performance of fitness apps such as FitCloud when it comes to monitoring your health. Your Wear device can be used with FitCloud to activate a GPS or sensor-based workout, and allows you to monitor your progress and health status during and after a workout, displaying your speed, heart rate and more.

“Pair it with heart-rate and temperature-monitor gear”

Cloud storage

Workouts can be saved to cloud storage services, such as Dropbox or GoogleDrive. This makes your data safe and secure, and also makes your stats easy to share with other people.



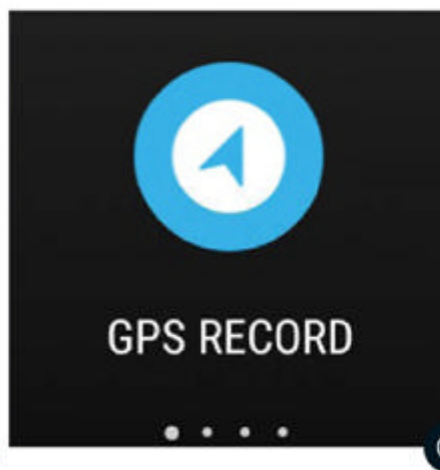
FitCloud

Start a workout on FitCloud



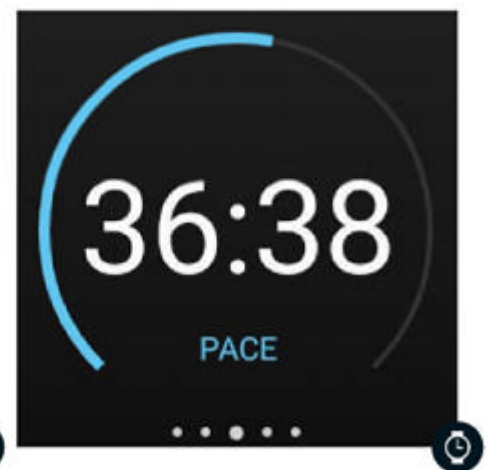
1: Select a workout mode

On your smartphone, open FitCloud. Where it reads GPS Record, swipe left to select sensor only or manual activity mode. You'll need a sensor device to run a sensor-only workout.



2: Start a workout

Once you've selected a mode, select an exercise category. Now put your phone away. Open FitCloud on your Wear device then tap on the workout mode you previously selected.



3: Monitor your workout

When in GPS mode you'll need to go outside for your workout to begin. FitCloud on your Wear device will display stats on your exercise regime. Stop the exercise on your watch too.

Keep time when you exercise

Quit having to count in your head while at the gym doing reps. Let Pace Me do the counting for you so you can concentrate on working out

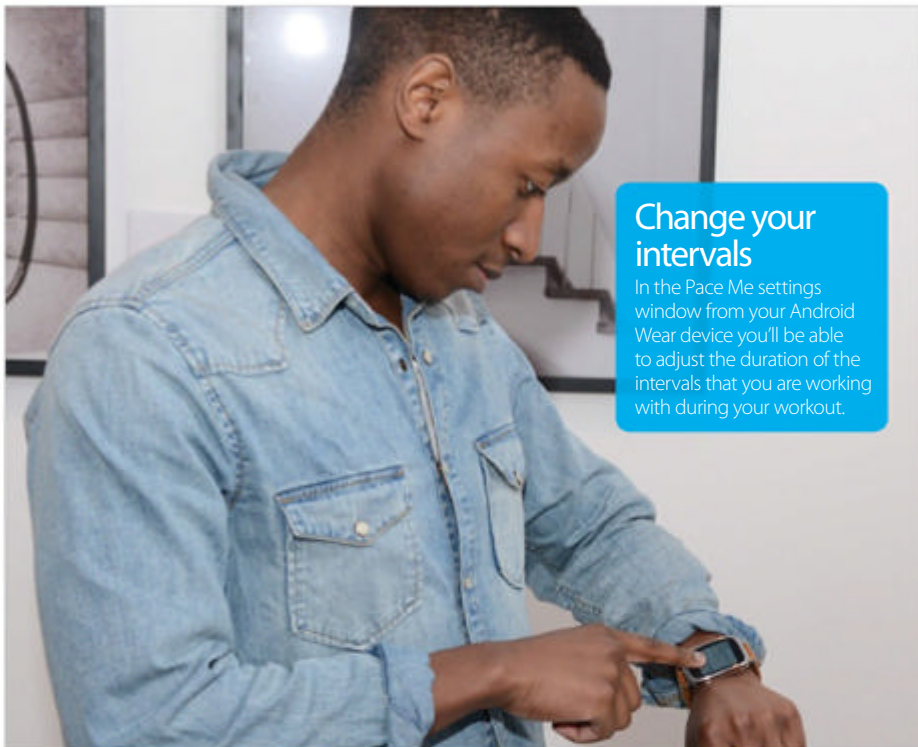


The Pace Me app is a fantastic example of a single-purpose app that provides a simple solution to timing intervals between reps

when working out at the gym. The creator of Pace Me, Ryan Chesla, stated that he would often see people at the gym looking up at the gym's clock in order to time their intervals, and decided that it would be much easier if their Android Wear device could time the intervals for them, and that's exactly what Pace Me does.

Once you start the timer, it will go for a minute and a half, then your Wear device will vibrate once the time is up. The time will then reset and start again continuously until you stop it, meaning that you are able to concentrate on your breathing during reps rather than worry about counting in your head or remembering to look at the clock.

"You can concentrate on breathing during reps rather than worry about counting"

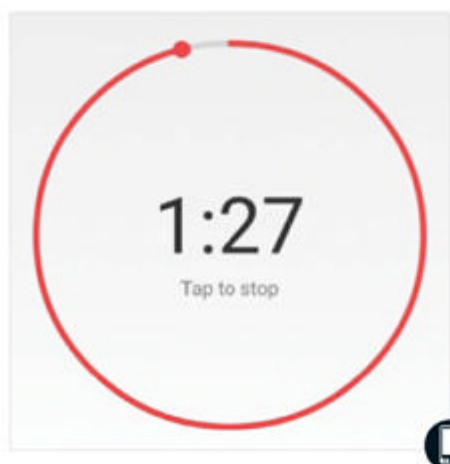


Change your intervals

In the Pace Me settings window from your Android Wear device you'll be able to adjust the duration of the intervals that you are working with during your workout.

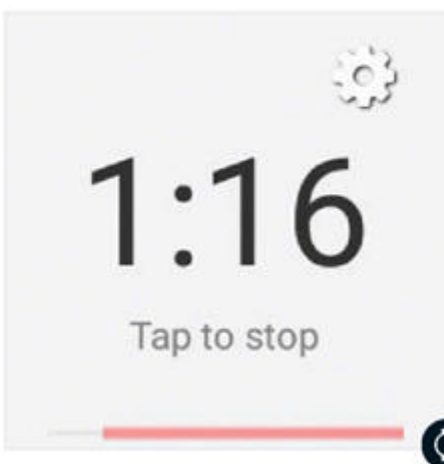
Pace Me

Run Pace Me



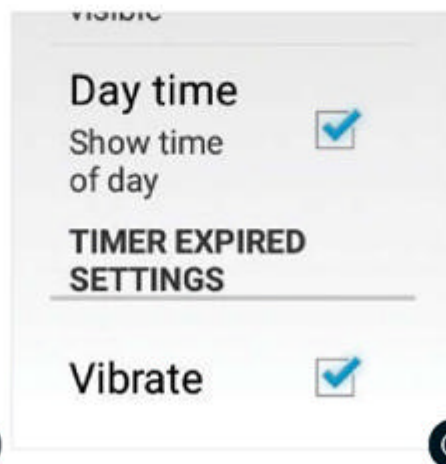
1: Start Pace Me

To run Pace Me from your phone, open the app then tap the timer to start the countdown. The countdown will continuously restart until you stop it by tapping on the screen.



2: Open on your watch

Open Pace Me from the start menu on your Android Wear device. Tap on the screen to begin the countdown. The timer will restart continuously until you tap the screen again.



3: Change settings

Tap on the cog icon on your Wear device to change the Pace Me settings, including notification options and to determine whether the screen stays active during the count down.

Up your fitness

Connect with friends, and compete for experience points while getting fit with the NexTrack exercise app on your Android Wear device



The NexTrack app's strapline is 'Making exercise fun', and that's exactly what it does. The app's main goal is to motivate you to

get out and start exercising. NexTrack works like a lot of other exercise apps; it allows you to log previous or current workouts, and will store your results for you to review. The more exercises you complete, the more XP (experience points) you'll receive, and this is what helps drive you to continue to exercise with NexTrack.

Once you begin an exercise on NexTrack it will automatically be displayed on your Android Wear screen. You can keep track of how long you've been exercising for, stop and start the timer, see details of your exercise, such as miles run and current speed, as well as view details on other users whom you are exercising with.

NexTrack also features a mode called FlashFit Mob, which is accessible on your Wear device. This tool provides you with details on other users anywhere in the world who are currently

"To motivate you to get out and start exercising"

performing the same exercise as you while using the NexTrack app. The FlashFit mob tool and the ability to connect with your friends while exercising are what make NexTrack a unique exercise app that allows for a social experience while getting fit.

Benefits of Wear exercise

Android Wear devices as a standard can record your speed and distance travelled. Some can even record your heartbeat as well as include a pedometer to be able to count your steps.

NexTrack Start an activity

Click to track an activity!

1: Start an activity

Activate the NexTrack app by voice or double tap your watch. Scroll down and tap Start then NexTrack. Tap Click to track an activity to run the app on your watch.

All Recent

10-Minute Trainer™

21 Day Fix®

30-Day Shred (JM)™

2: Select an activity

Tap All to view all available activities that can be tracked with NexTrack. Certain activities, such as running or cycling, can be tracked using GPS on your device as well as timed.

"Ok Google"

13

29

FlashFit®

3: Start the timer

Tap on the activity to start the timer. This action will also open the NexTrack app on your smartphone. The current activity will appear on your Android Wear's home screen.



FlashFit Mob

4: View the options

While running an activity, swipe right on your Wear device for more NexTrack options. You can connect with a friend who is exercising with you, or opt into FlashFit Mob mode.

Follow your trek route

Receive advanced and detailed info on your surroundings and hiking route, and have it sent directly to your Wear device



View Ranger GPS is an app for people who want to stray off the beaten track and navigate off road in a way that the usual

navigation app can't help you with. View Ranger provides you with as much detailed mapping as Google Maps, but with the added benefit of including off-road routes, wild tracks and detailed information on the environments in which you will be trekking.

By syncing with an Android Wear device, View Ranger can provide you with all of the information about your current journey. You will be provided with more than just your step count on the watch face. View Ranger will time your travels for you, show you how much distance you have travelled, provide you with details of your current elevation, letting you know how many metres above or below sea level you are, as well as send you coordinates to your exact position and provide you with a compass on the face of your Wear device.

Combining both the app on your smartphone and the information seen on your Android Wear device, you will be able to



"View Ranger provides you with the info about your current journey"

navigate your way through even the wildest of environments with View Ranger GPS.

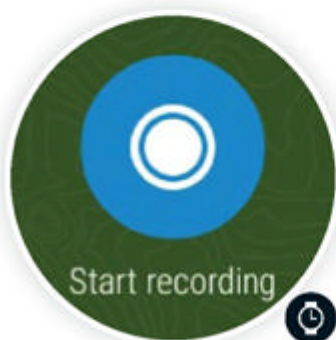
The app also provides route guides that are found nearby to your location, and lets you review your recorded hiking stats, which is an added bonus.

Input coordinates

The View Ranger GPS app allows you to enter coordinates in order to find a spot anywhere in the world, making it one of the most accurate location apps available.

View Ranger GPS

Record a trek



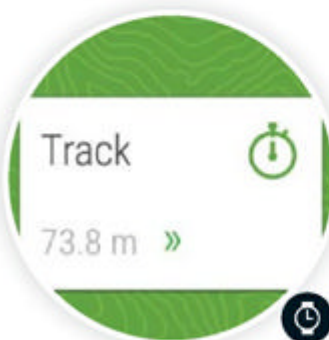
1: Start recording

Open View Ranger on your Wear device. Swipe to the right then tap Start Recording. View Ranger will begin recording details on your trip, including distance travelled.



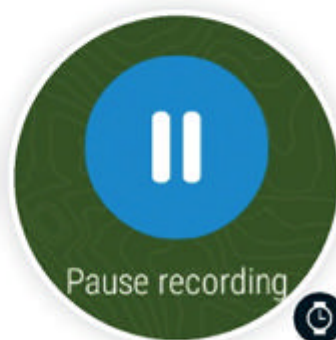
2: View stats

Swipe to the right once recording has begun to view statistics on your current journey. Swipe to the right again to see your current position coordinates and elevation.



3: See at-a-glance info

When your watch screen switches off, tap on it and flick up on the View Ranger text to view a digest of info on your current journey. Swipe to the right for details.



4: Pause the recording

Swipe to the right then tap Pause Recording to stop View Ranger from collecting stats and timing your current journey. Do this when resting to get more accurate results.

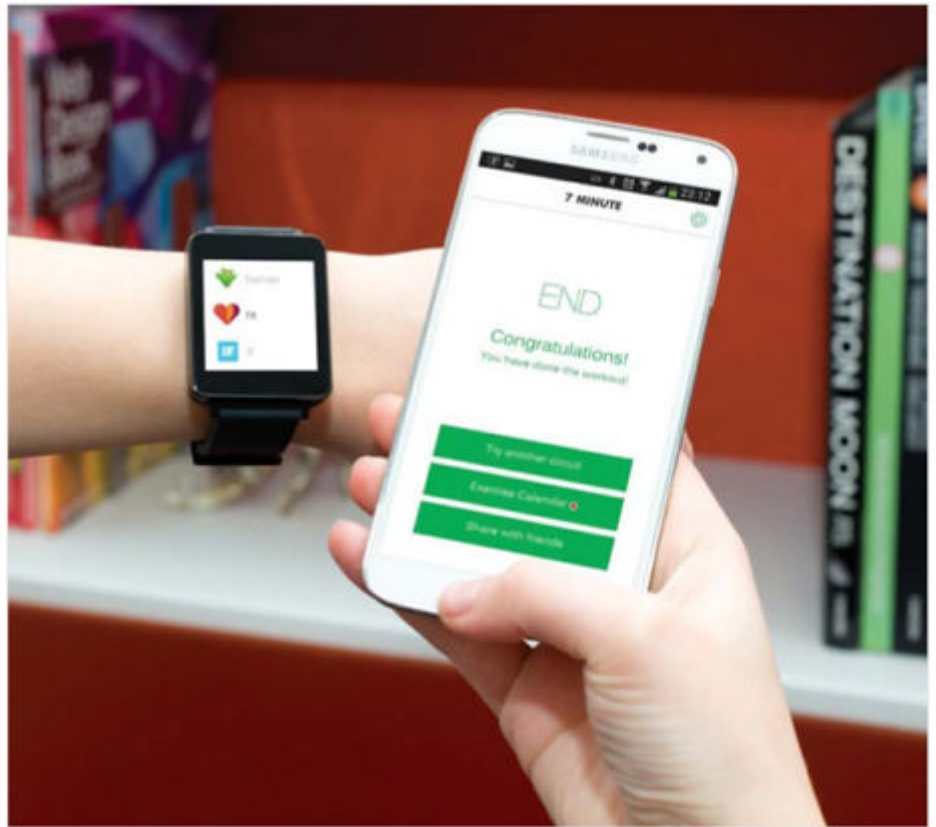
Workout in seven minutes

Even if it's cold, wet and dark, you can get in shape thanks to 7 Minute Workout and your Android Wear device



One of the major barriers to getting fit is the perfectly natural unwillingness to go running or cycling when outside it is cold, wet, dark or a combination of all three. The other reason is the time commitment required to go to the gym, have a session, get washed and get back home or to work. However, Android Wear has made a step towards combating that by allowing you to have a go at a fully connected seven-minute workout that requires nothing but a chair, a wall and a bit of self motivation.

Over the course of seven minutes you will do 13 exercises lasting 30 seconds each, with a few seconds of rest in between each workout to give you chance to catch your breath. The all-over body workout gets you doing press-ups, sit-ups, jumping jacks and running on the spot, while the abs blast obviously focuses on the abdominals and general core strength. Your smartphone or tablet barks the orders while your Android Wear device keeps the time and also syncs up to Google Fit, so you gain points towards your daily Google Fit goal.



This tutorial will show you how to get started with the seven-minute workout, as well as how to track your progress through the weeks and months, make things a little bit tougher, and sync with your Android Wear device and Google Fit.

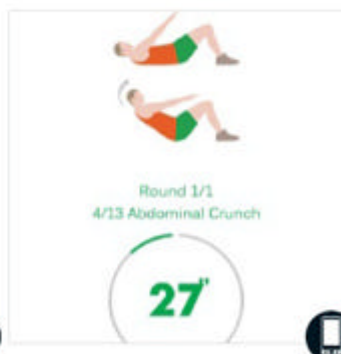
Why seven minutes?

The seven-minute workout has been devised as a quick and efficient way to improve all-round fitness. The order of exercises is designed to give each muscle group a rest.

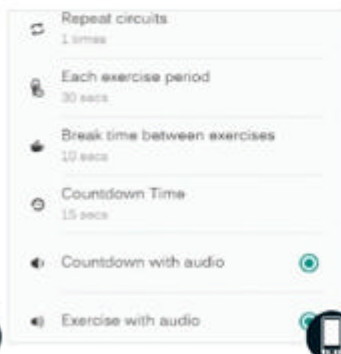
7 Minute Workout Boost fitness in a hurry



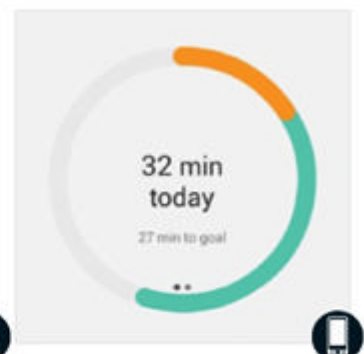
1: Choose your workout
Decide whether to go for an all-over body conditioning and cardio workout, or concentrate solely on your abs and core strength. Click your preferred workout.



2: Check progress
Following your workout you can try another circuit, share stats with friends, or review your calendar. The calendar shows how many days in a row you've worked out for.



3: Up the ante
Go into settings via the wheel in the top-right corner and scroll down. This will give you the option of reducing or increasing the amount of time you exercise and rest for.



4: Share with Google Fit
The settings will also give you an opportunity to sync your 7 Minute Workout account with Google Fit. Click the circle and it will add your workout time to your daily goal.

Find nearby activity trails

Explore a nearby hiking trail, go rock climbing or do some mountain biking with the assistance of the outdoor app Komoot and your Android wear device



Komoot is here to help you find great hiking and biking spots in your local area. It's an outdoor app that makes discovering hiking trails and other great outdoor activities simple.

The app holds a detailed library of locations and activities that can be catered to your outdoor interests. When Komoot connects with your Android Wear device, it allows you to explore your surroundings from your wrist, and provides you with turn-by-turn navigation while you are on your current journey.

The main benefit of using Komoot on your Wear device is to reduce the need to refer to your smartphone and for you to be able to enjoy your surroundings while checking up on your progress from your watch. Komoot is also built to run without an internet or data connection, storing a cache of information about your current activity before you set off into the wild.

“An outdoor app that makes discovering outdoor activities simple”

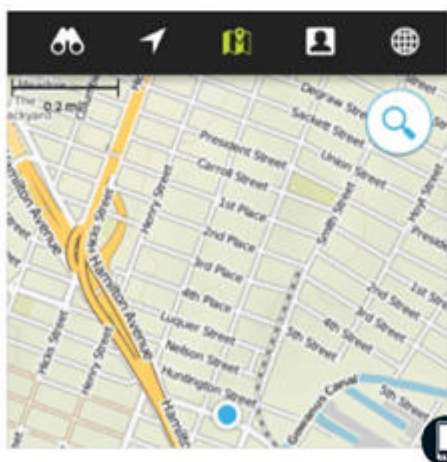
Komoot

Set up a tour



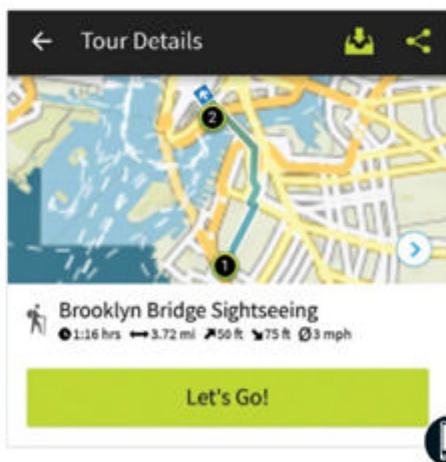
Starting point

If the starting point of your tour is not your current location, then Komoot will direct you to the starting point before beginning the current tour.



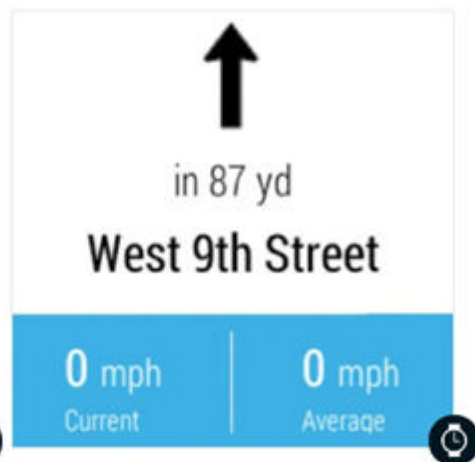
1: View your location

Open Komoot on your Android smartphone. Tap the map icon to view your current location to get an overview of the area. Tap the arrow icon to plan a new tour to go on.



2: Create a tour

Tap Choose Destination and add a location. Select a fitness level and route type then tap Plan Tour. Once a tour has been planned tap Let's Go! to open Komoot on your Wear device.



3: Wear navigation

Once the tour has started step-by-step directions will appear on the face of your Wear device, showing you which turn you will be taking next and navigating your way.

Ensure you stay hydrated

Keep yourself hydrated and track how much water you are taking in on a daily basis through the use of the Drink Well app and your Android Wear device



If you're having trouble making sure that you drink enough water on a daily basis then the Drink Well app for Android devices

can help remind you when it's time to take a drink, as well as give you an idea on how much liquid you are taking in. The app will train you into a regular drinking regime based on your vital stats. In order to keep Drink Well up to date with how much you're drinking you'll need to pull the app up and tap it every time you drink, but with an Android Wear device it's even easier to keep track of your intake. You can simply tap on your watch face to record your intake. You'll also be able to use your Wear device to keep an eye on your overall intake over the last few days, helping you get into a regular and healthy routine of re-hydrating.

"The app will train you into a regular drinking regime based on your vital stats"



Drink Well Log your hydration stats

Track your drinking regime
Let's start by calculating your target consumption

You are ☒ Man ☐ Woman

How old are you? years

How much do you weight? kg

Count sport in? ☒ Yes ☐ No

How often?

1: Add your vitals

Open the Drink Well app on your smartphone and input your vitals, including age, gender and weight. You can choose to include details on how often you exercise. Tap Save and Continue.

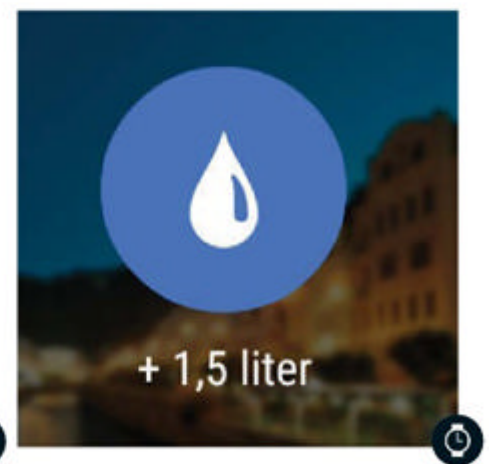
Reminders

60 minutes ☒ Yes ☐ No
Repeatedly

Your body best processes liquids in

2: Get reminders

In the app, tap the bell icon then activate the 60-minute reminder option. The reminder will appear on your Android Wear device every 60 minutes telling you to hydrate.



3: Record your drinks

Double tap on your Android Wear screen then scroll down and tap Start. Tap Drinking Regime, swipe right and tap on a unit of measurement to log that unit on the app.

Watch your alcohol intake

Use MyVicePal to get a better idea of how much alcohol you're drinking on a weekly basis and keep an eye on your blood-alcohol level when drinking alcohol



Want to keep an eye on your alcohol intake? MyVicePal does more than simply count your unit intake; it can estimate your blood-

alcohol level based on your alcohol intake, as well as give you a calorie count on the amount of alcohol that you are taking in. If you commit to inputting data on a daily and weekly basis around your alcohol intake, then MyVicePal will be able to show you a detailed breakdown of your drinking habits over that period of time.

The whole purpose of the app is to give you a better understanding of your alcohol intake, as well as help you keep your blood-alcohol level in a healthy place when drinking. With your Android Wear device, you can quickly update the app with your alcohol intake every time you take a drink by inputting the type of drink, such as beer, wine or a spirit, then selecting the size and quantity with a few simple taps.

"To give you a better understanding of your alcohol intake"



Regular reminders

MyVicePal will send notifications to your phone and Wear device when you are inputting drink data to remind you of your current estimated blood-alcohol level.

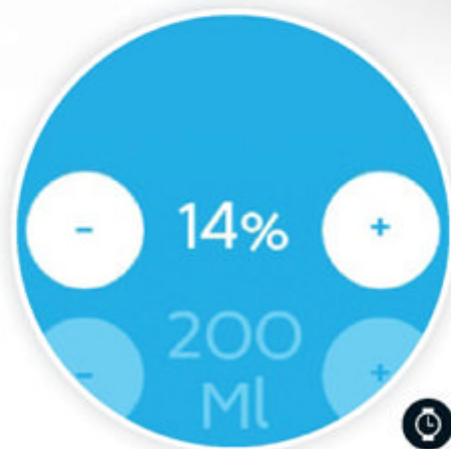
MyVicePal

Monitor your drinking on MyVicePal



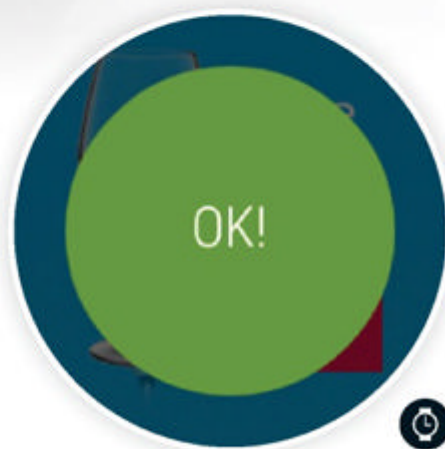
1: Select a drink

Open MyVicePal on your Android Wear device. Flick upward to browse through the drinks. Tap on one of the options to select the drink or swipe to the right for more options.



2: Adjust quantity

Once you've swiped right on a drink, tap Change. Tap the plus or minus icons to adjust the percentage value of a drink, and increase or decrease the volume of the drink.



3: Add a drink

Tap OK then tap Add to add the drink to your overall count. You can then view your intake on your phone using the MyVicePal app. This information will be presented to you in graphs.

Eat well and lose weight

Strap a permanent motivational diet coach to your wrist by getting My Diet Coach Pro for your Wear device



Losing weight is a pretty tough thing to do. Even if you are exercising like crazy, food cravings and bad eating habits can undo all of your hard work in an instant. If you are prone to that little demon inside you, which insists that just a couple of biscuits with your tea will not hurt, then My Diet Coach Pro could be the answer for you.

This vibrant app is a motivational speaker, an encourager and a mine of information, as well as being useful for tracking your hopeful weight loss. Although the majority of the app is controlled through your smartphone or tablet, one of the most important functions comes via your Android Wear device. Certain key aspects of your weight-loss program, such as drinking water or counting calories, can be done through your Android Wear device, so you can always keep on top of your targets even if your phone is in your bag or back on your desk. This is really handy because it's all too easy to under or overestimate your food and drink intake, so being able to update it straight away is very useful indeed.



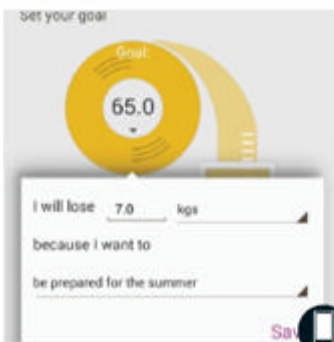
This Android app should give you all the tools to ignore your cravings and start your path to weight loss. And this tutorial will show you how to set up reminders, motivational statements that will work for you, and finally challenges.

Track your appearance

The app also offers the function of picture tracking. Take a photo of yourself in the same pose at designated times to see visual evidence of your weight loss and increase motivation.

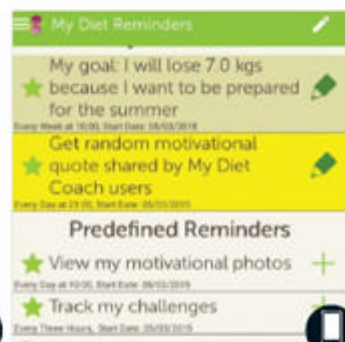
My Diet Coach

Keep motivated to lose weight



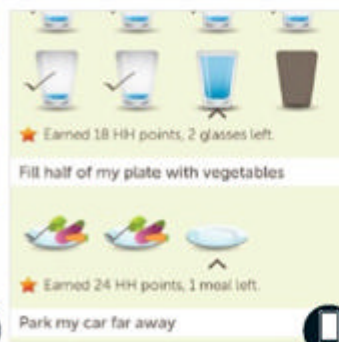
1: Set weight and goals

Click the three horizontal lines in the top-left corner to set your current weight and target weight. Here you can also select why you want to drop those pounds.



2: Set reminders

In My Diet Reminders, again in the top left-hand corner, you can select a list of motivational phrases and tips that you can turn to whenever you feel temptation begin to strike.



3: Set challenges

The menu is also where you will find your challenges. Achieving these targets earns you points to spend on virtual outfits and will give you small goals to strive for.



4: Update your weight

As you lose weight, this can be logged in the Visual Weight Tracker. Move the sliding scale up or down then press the lever to set your weight. Set specific dates for this.

Set timers and intervals with your watch

Avoid having to play around with timers on your smartphone or stopwatches on your normal watch by downloading Interval Timer



Interval training is an excellent way to exercise if fat burning is your goal. The intense bursts of energy use your fat reserves, as they are an instant store of energy, so you'll gain more from 20 minutes of interval training than from a longer, steady jog. With that in mind, Interval Timer has made the process of planning and executing an interval-based workout much easier. You can pre-set your planned workout times on your smartwatch, as well as your planned rest times. Start it off and the clock will count down until you're allowed to take a breather, buzzing when your time is up. It will buzz again when you need to get running or cycling again with a final, harsher buzz telling you when your activity is over. As your Wear device marries up the technological benefit of the smartwatch's intelligent timer with the watch's ability to tell you how much longer you've got in your session, interval training should become easier. This tutorial will show you how to set up your workout.

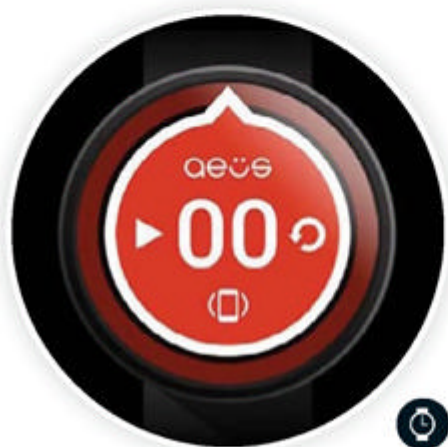
"Interval training will become easier"



Customise themes

To make the entire process of exercising a bit more fun, you can download customised packs, such as a theme set of *The Avengers* or *Guardians of the Galaxy*.

Interval Timer Pre-set your interval-training workout



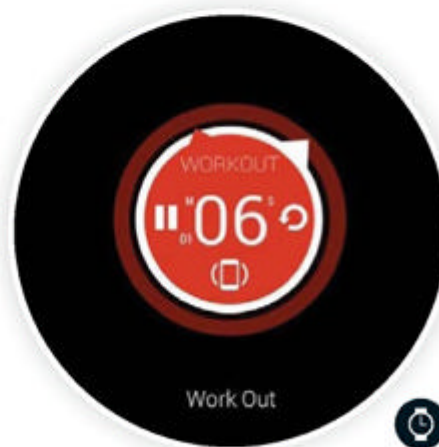
1: Set your timer

Open up the app on your smartwatch and it should reveal a timer. Using the plus and minus markers, select the number of seconds and minutes you want to exercise for.



2: Rest stop

Swipe to the right and do the same thing again, but this time you'll be choosing how long you want to rest for. It should be a lot less than your activity time.



3: Start exercising!

Press start and the clock will start to count down. When you feel it buzz, rest until you feel it buzz again. Three buzzes will indicate the end of your workout.

Improve your sleeping patterns

Monitor the length and quality of your sleep with this Android Wear app that doubles as a sleep tracker and an alarm clock



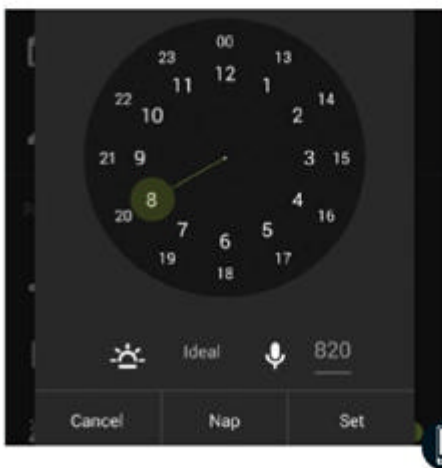
When it comes to keeping fit and healthy, exercise is obviously extremely useful, but a good night's rest also comes into play, as this is the time you physically and mentally recover from the day's exertions. Sleep trackers use the gyroscope and accelerometer in your phone to measure how much you're twisting and turning. It is able to combine with information from your Android Wear device to turn this data into information about when you went to sleep, giving you an accurate measure of how long you were asleep for. As well as that, it measures your sleep cycles, working out how long you were in deep, REM sleep for, which is the most effective kind of sleep. This information is also useful for its final trick, which is to wake you up as you exit a sleep cycle with a buzz on your wrist. This tutorial shows you how to set up an alarm and monitor your sleeping schedule.

"It works out how long you were in deep, REM sleep for"



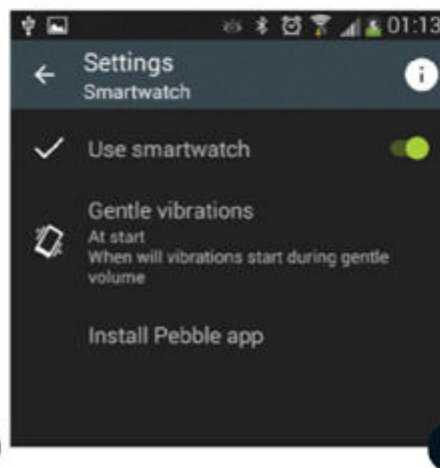
Sleep as Android

How to track your sleep



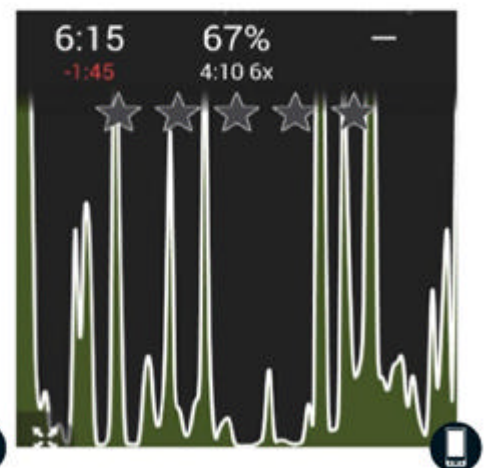
1: Set your alarm

The first screen gives you the option to set your alarm. However, it can wake you up earlier if you won't exit your sleep cycle until after your alarm is scheduled to go off.



2: Sync your Android Wear device

Head into the Settings menu and scroll down until you see Smartwatch. Select 'Use smartwatch'. This will enable it to vibrate slightly to ease you awake before the alarm sounds.



3: Track your sleeping patterns

When you wake up, the app will list all your vital sleep statistics. This includes how long you've slept for, how many REM cycles you had, and even how much you snored.

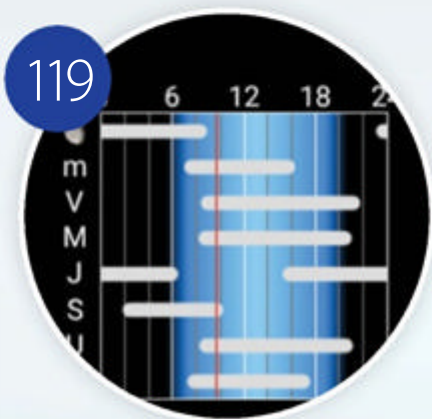


Social & Entertainment

Your Wear doesn't just organise and track, it can keep you connected to your friends and entertain you

- 104** **Contact your friends from your watch**
Use Facebook's messaging service on your wrist
- 106** **Find your pinned locations**
Get alerts when you near a location you pinned
- 107** **Say hello to your friends**
Say "Yo!" to your friends
- 108** **Research with Attopedia**
Learn facts with the Wear version of Wikipedia
- 109** **Keep updated with fun topics**
Use Reddit from your Wear device
- 110** **Manage your SMS texts**
Take charge with Coffee
- 111** **Talk to friends on the go**
Utilise the WhatsApp Android Wear app
- 112** **Control tracks with Google Play Music**
Play, pause and turn it up with Google Play Music
- 114** **Listen to music on the go with Play Music**
Take your tracks with you on the move
- 115** **Enjoy podcasts on your watch**
Get NPR Radio for your Wear device

- 116** **Listen to your favourite shows**
Get podcasts from PlayerFM
- 117** **Keep in time when playing music**
Use dMetronome to keep in time
- 118** **Learn a new language**
Master a new language with Duolingo
- 119** **Map constellations in the night sky**
Find the stars with this great app
- 120** **Find new apps**
Use Blue Colony to find apps to suit you
- 121** **Let your watch make the decisions**
Truth or Dare? Magic eight ball? Yes/No?
- 122** **Tackle difficult games**
Avoid planets with this hard game
- 123** **Play against your friends**
Challenge your friends at *Reversi*
- 124** **Achieve high scores**
Wear's answer to *Flappy Bird*
- 125** **Add to your gaming strategy**
Play *Tetris* as designed for your watch



"Bear in mind the accuracy will also be reduced indoors, so go outside"



122

Contact your friends from your watch

With your Android Wear device, it's now easier than ever to manage messages directly on your wrist, and keep in contact wherever you are



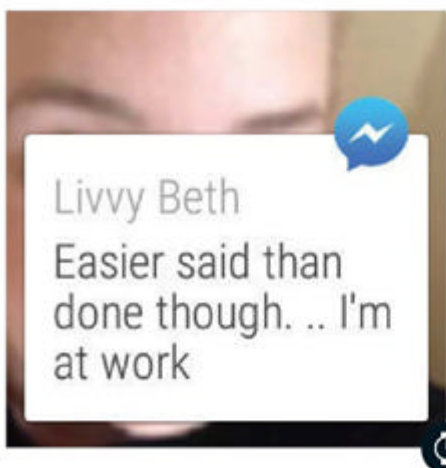
Thanks to the rise of third-party keyboards being made readily available for Android Wear devices, messaging apps have

undergone a major transformation on how they work on your wrist. Without doubt, the biggest changes many users will find is the apps that combine both messaging and social media. Although there is always room for improvement, these apps help bring a decent social experience straight to your wrist. One of the best apps in this field that's currently available for your Android Wear smartwatch is Facebook Messenger. The app itself enables users to remotely connect to their Facebook account and take full control of any and all messages that come through it.

Each message received through the app will show up with the profile picture of the corresponding profile, and a brief overview of the message. Users have a variety of options available when it comes to dealing with the message, such as quickly responding to it by voice, or opening the app and responding to it through the accompanying app. Check the settings within the app to customise how you want to be notified.

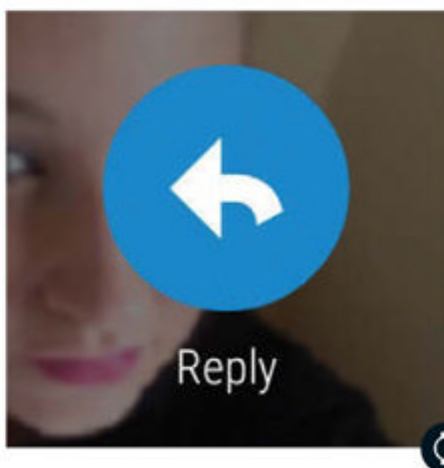
Facebook Messenger

Stay connected with Facebook Messenger



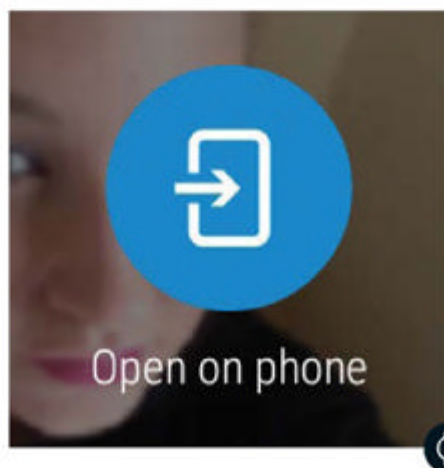
1: Get notifications

After installing the Facebook Messenger app, you should find that your next message will arrive immediately on to your smartwatch. The profile picture of the contact will also appear.



2: Choose to reply

With a single swipe to the left, you can choose to reply to the message. This will open up the chat conversation within the official Facebook app for you to reply.



3: Open on phone

Instead of sending an immediate reply, swipe to the left a second time to open up the Facebook Messenger app overview screen. This won't register that you've opened the message.

Understand Facebook Messenger

The Facebook Messenger app has some great features to explore

Integrate apps

To incorporate your Facebook Messenger account with your Twitter feed, look to download the Highlight app. Using this app will enable you to manage both messages and tweets through your smartwatch simultaneously. The app is currently under development, however, so there are some noticeable performance issues that need to be ironed out.

Manage messages

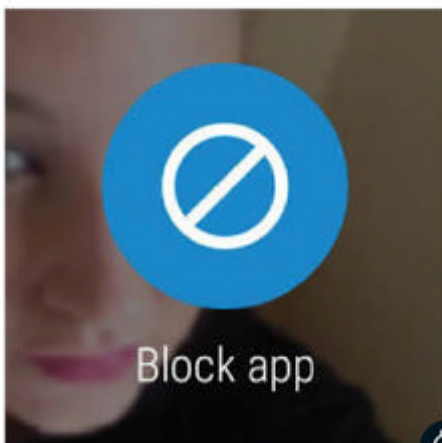
If you have got multiple chats, just swipe up and down to navigate through each of the different contacts. You can then dismiss them with a swipe to the right

Block contacts

If you'd like to block a specific contact, use the Facebook Messenger app to choose a single contact from sending you messages. Alternatively, you can block numerous contacts at once

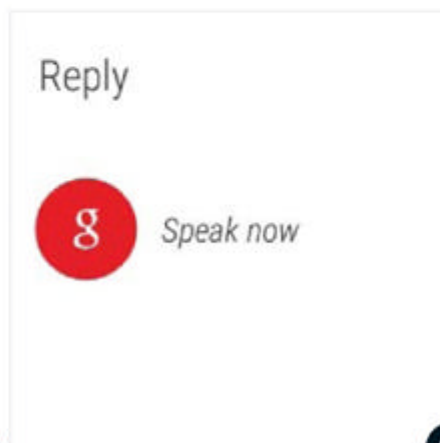
Customise sound

Use the app's settings menu to set if you want your smartwatch to vibrate or make a sound when you receive a notification. However, be prepared for your watch to constantly vibrate



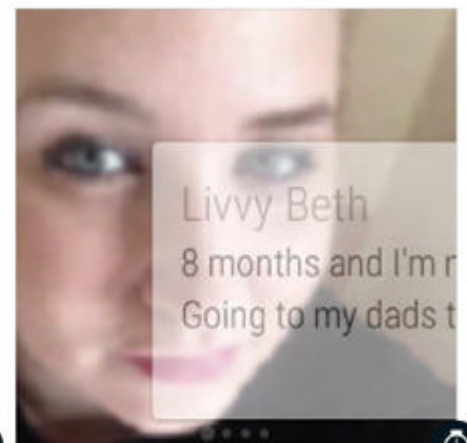
4: Block the app

If you're finding the constant stream of messages annoying, swipe left again to choose the Block app option. This will stop all future messages appearing on your watch.



5: Use your voice

When replying to a message, users have the choice to use their voice on their smartwatch to directly respond to a message. Speak loudly and clearly into the microphone.



6: Dismiss notifications

If you've got no time to answer a message, use two fingers on the screen and swipe right to dismiss the notification. You'll be notified 10 minutes later of the same message.

Find your pinned locations

Share and send location details to your friends and connect with new people around the world with the revamped and highly useful Pinterest app



Pinterest is all about finding and sharing new places, and some of its best features have been modified to work with Android Wear.

If you've recently pinned a series of places that you'd like to visit, or perhaps pinned places linked around a certain subject, then the app will send an Android Wear notification directly to your smartwatch when you're close to one of these locations. Users can then simply dismiss the notification if it isn't relevant anymore by swiping left when it appears, or go through the necessary steps to get step-by-step directions to that location.

Of course, following directions on your smartwatch will not be to everyone's tastes, but it's nice to see that Pinterest has included it as an exclusive Android Wear feature. Read the following steps to make sure you get the most from the Pinterest app when using your Android Wear smartwatch.

"Pinterest has included an exclusive Android Wear feature"

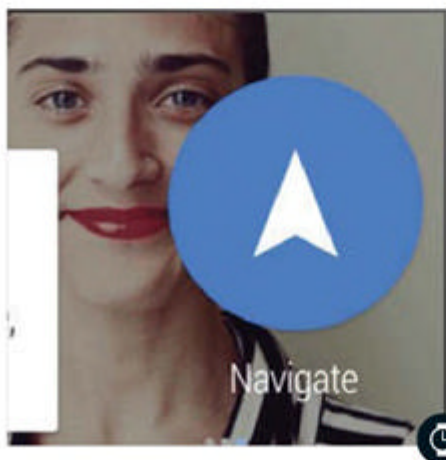


Monitoring your pins

You'll receive notifications every time a friend is close to one of your pinned locations, or is searching for a similar type of location. You can reply with a message, if you so wish.

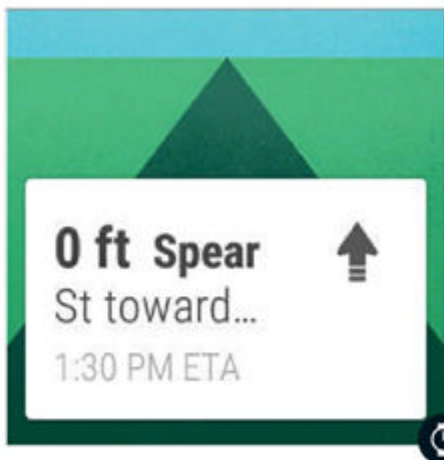
Pinterest

Discover new locations with Pinterest



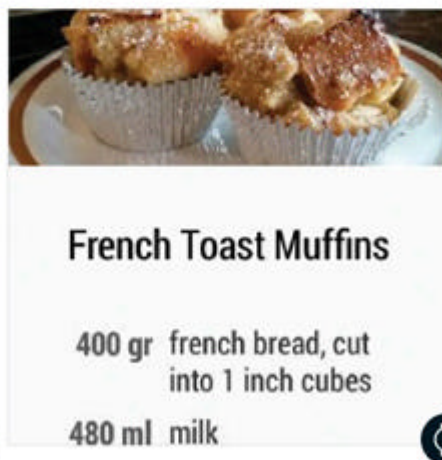
1: Find a location

When you go past a place that has been pinned, a notification will appear. Select the Navigate options to get directions to it, and the Maps integration will now load for you.



2: Follow directions

The app will then use turn-by-turn navigation to guide you to the exact spot of the location. Follow the route and then swipe left on the screen once you've reached it.



3: Link to apps

Some apps will link with the pinned location, depending on what it offers. Cafes are prime examples where certain recipe apps can be linked, but this is a feature still in beta mode.

Say hello to your friends

If neither Facebook nor Twitter are fulfilling your social-media needs, then why not try something completely different? The Yo app is a new take on social media



Yo is a social-media app that can't really be compared to the likes of Facebook, Twitter or even the minimal Google+.

Instead, Yo markets itself as a one-stop communication app, if the communication is just using the word Yo to ask and answer questions, that is. The invite system enables users to connect with fellow Yo users, and with a quick message, you can stay permanently connected through the app. Although the app doesn't take itself very seriously, the Yo Index is without doubt the premier feature within it. Through different plug-ins, users can subscribe to different news outlets and grab the latest headlines, which are then briefly summarised on the Wear interface. It's definitely not at the same level of Flipboard, but the feature as a whole works well. It's surprisingly hard to summarise Yo, but it's without doubt a fun and addictive take on social media.

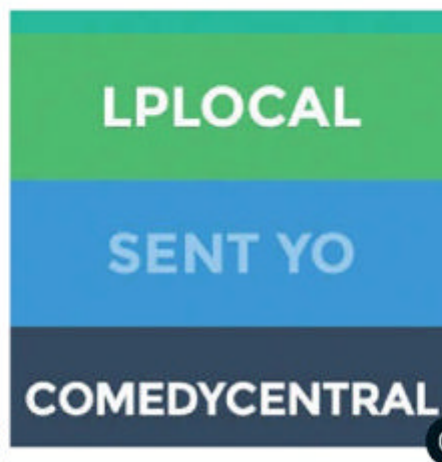
"Yo markets itself as a one-stop communication app"

Yo Stay in contact with friends



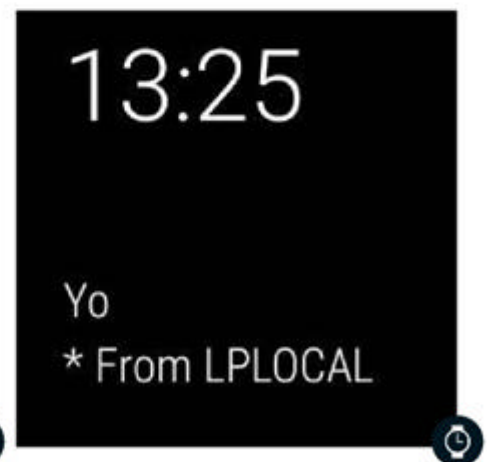
1: Manage subscriptions

When you open the Yo app, all of the subscriptions you track in the phone version of the app will be loaded on your wrist. It can take a few minutes for all of them to load.



2: Send a Yo

Press on any of the subscriptions to send a Yo to your friends regarding the topic in question. You'll see the word 'Sent' once it's done and all your friends have received it.



3: Get notified

When you receive a reply to your Yo, your smartwatch will buzz and a notification will appear for you to press and reply to, or you can open the notification on your phone.

Research with Attopedia

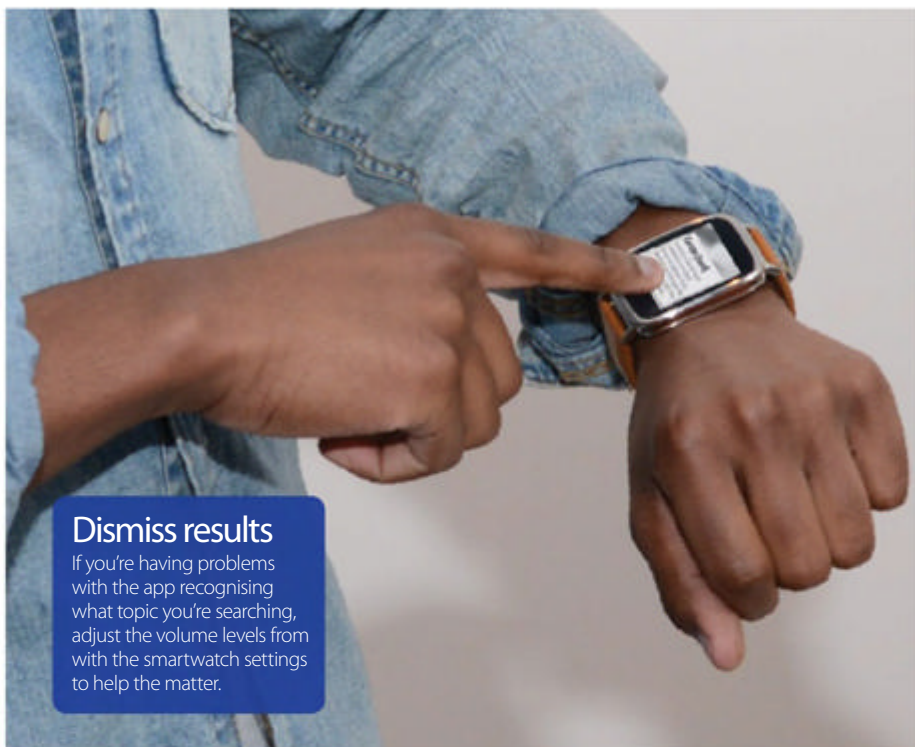
Get the power of Wikipedia on your smartwatch, and research anything that you want to know more about without having to use your phone



Having an encyclopaedia on your wrist may seem like a strange idea, but thanks to the Attopedia app, it's completely

possible. The app itself is a scaled-down version of the successful Wikipedia client, giving you the power to find out anything about everything. With a quick voice search, the app will systematically pull together all its resources to give you all the information you require. Although most will be happy with the standard text entries that come with the app, users can also take a look at various images that come with it. Let's face it, any Android Wear smartwatch isn't the best place to enjoy images, but having the choice is nice. On some entries you'll even find other interactive elements that can link Attopedia with several other Android Wear apps. So read on, as we guide you through the process of getting your knowledge fix with the incredible Attopedia app.

"The app is a scaled-down version of the Wikipedia client"

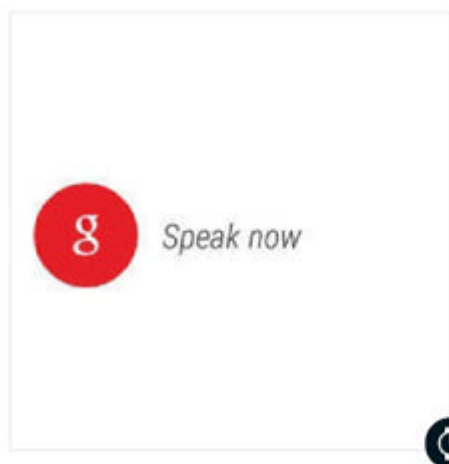


Dismiss results

If you're having problems with the app recognising what topic you're searching, adjust the volume levels from with the smartwatch settings to help the matter.

Attopedia

Learn about something new



1: Use your voice

Due to the lack of typing capabilities, when you begin a search in the app you'll be required to use your voice to search for a topic. Speak clearly and close to the screen.



2: Take a look

An overview page will now appear with the results of your search. Scroll down to see the different meanings of your topic, or swipe left to dismiss it instantly.



3: Further details

Some entries will come with images to look at. Press on the screen to open up the image and let it cover your entire smartwatch display. A second press will close it.

Keep updated with fun topics

Explore thousands of different subreddits through the official Reddit Android Wear app, and keep the internet with you



If you've ever had any serious interest in the internet, chances are you'll have stumbled across Reddit. The self-proclaimed 'Front

page of the internet' is the world's largest message board and contains millions of posts spread over various 'subreddits'. These subreddits cover topics on everything from rock music to cat pictures and everything in between, but more importantly they provide the core framework of the official accompanying Android Wear app.

When using the smartwatch version of the app, you can track any of the subreddits that you subscribe to and take part in any thread that's currently listed within. Although logging in to your Reddit account isn't necessary, it's recommended to find topics of interest.

Navigating around some of the bigger subreddits can be a tricky task on the small screen of a smartwatch, but thanks to the clever zoom and tracking shortcuts included within this version, it shouldn't prove to be too much of an issue for new or seasoned users alike. The fun really starts when you begin playing around

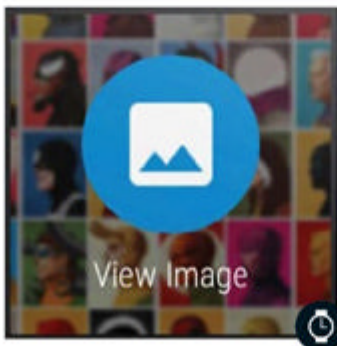
with what the app can really do. Users can reply to any created thread in a subreddit, as well as interact with any images they contain within. With so much on offer, make sure you read the following steps to get the most out of the official Wear version of Reddit.

Track subscriptions

If you subscribe to a variety of subreddits, use the Android Wear app to manage new posts that are added to them. You can also unsubscribe to them if they're no longer of interest.

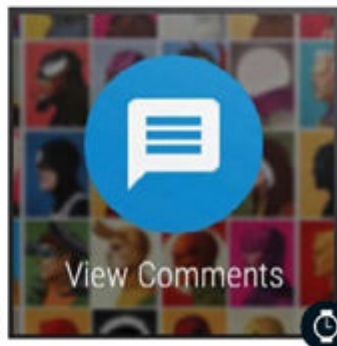


Reddit Explore subreddit options



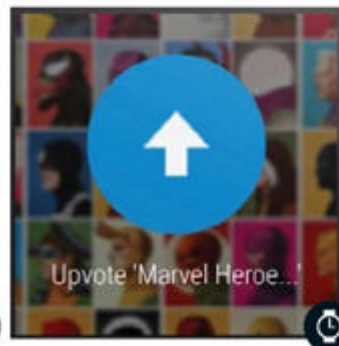
1: View images

Press on a post and swipe left to get the View Image screen. Use this to take a closer look at any attached images. Pinch on the screen to zoom in on any image.



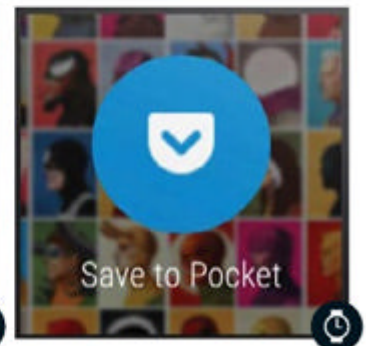
2: See responses

Swipe left a second time and select the View Comments option. You'll be able to scroll down the list of comments, as well as upvote or downvote any you like or dislike.



3: Choose a template

If you like the post a lot, swipe left a third time and choose the Upvote button. The app will add your vote to the thread and the post will go to the top of the subreddit.



4: Move to Pocket

For long passages of text, consider the Save to Pocket option. This will save the current thread to the Pocket app for you to read on your phone later.

Manage your SMS texts

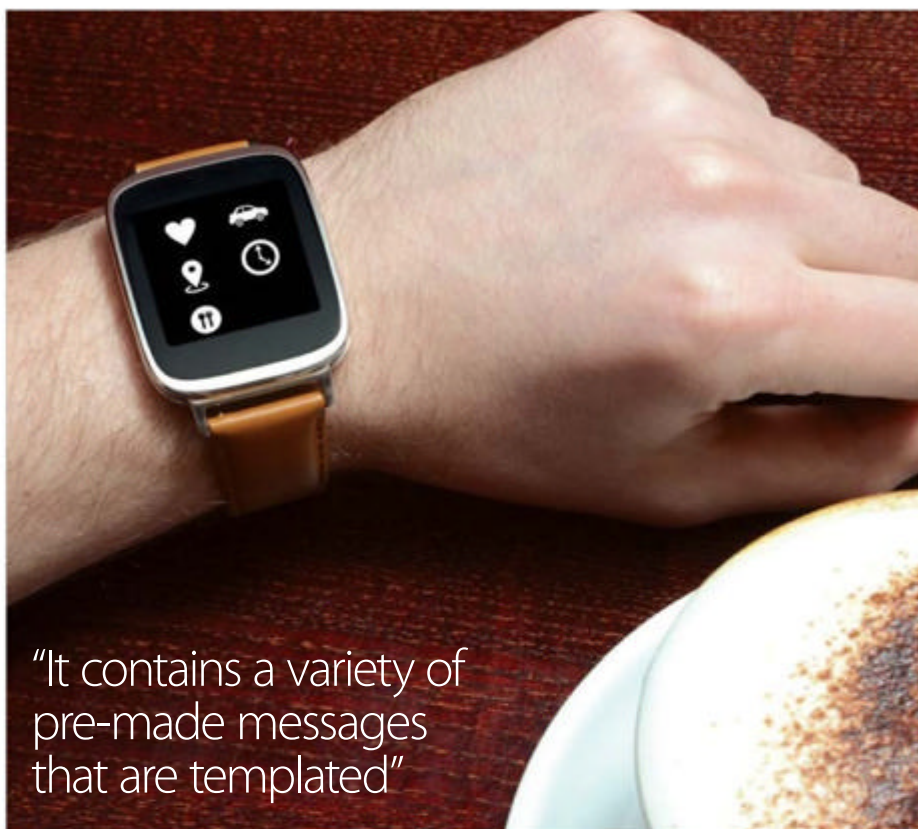
Receive and reply to any SMS message sent to your phone by choosing a pre-made message within the Coffee app



Coffee is the first reliable SMS client that's been made readily available for Android Wear devices. There are several

alternatives on the market, but most simply don't work or confuse some basic functions. It's undoubtedly still a work in progress with some noticeable performance issues, but when it works, it works really well.

Although the app itself doesn't include a built-in keyboard for users to type out a message, it contains a wide variety of pre-made messages that are templated for maximum efficiency. When users receive any SMS message, they'll instantly be notified of it through the Coffee app and can then use one of these templated messages to send a quick reply. A separate notification will later appear on the partnered smartphone to let you know the message was delivered accordingly. If the idea of pre-built messages doesn't sound like something you'd be interested in, then be sure to download the Minuum keyboard and type out your SMS messages from scratch. Or, as an alternative, you could create your very own



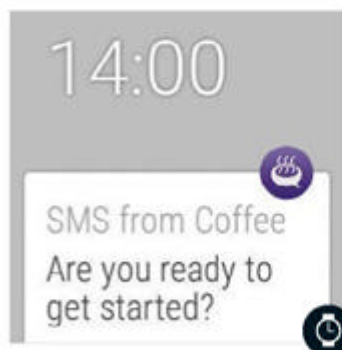
templated message, as the bulk of the pre-made ones are rather abrupt, to say the least. Keep on reading below and we'll guide you through some of the best features of the Coffee SMS app and get you sending out messages from your smartwatch in no time at all.

Sending woes

On occasion, you may find that the Coffee app will fail to send the text message. Simply restart the accompanying app to reset it and send the message again.

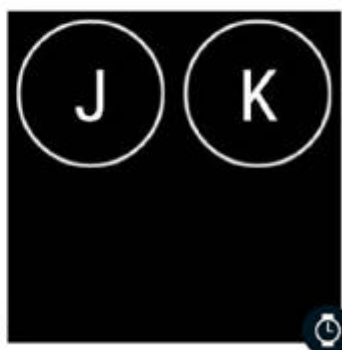
Coffee

Reply to an SMS message



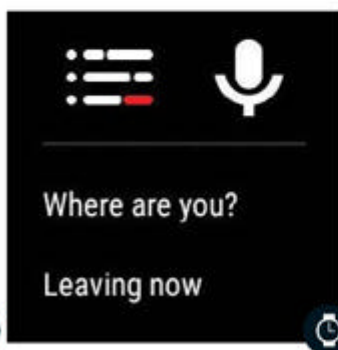
1: Set up the app

The initial notification you receive will require you to follow the steps provided and partner the app with your Android phone. This process takes a few minutes to complete.



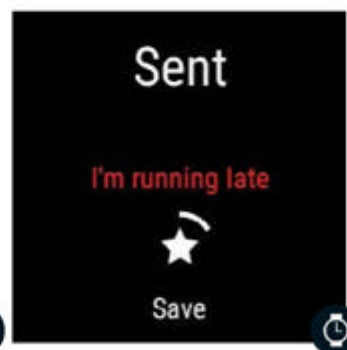
2: Manage messages

When a new message appears, it'll be represented by the first letter of the name of the contact who sent it to you. Select the contact's name you want to reply to.



3: Choose a template

Go through the range of pre-made topics and decide on the best type of message to respond with. The categories can be accessed by a press on the screen.



4: Confirm

The app will now provide you with an overview screen, letting you track what message you chose and the time it sent. Close the message once it's been sent.

Talk to friends on the go

WhatsApp is the premier app when it comes to talking to friends and family. Here's a guide to the Android Wear version



One of the most convoluted areas of the Google Play store is without doubt the messaging section. Due to just how crowded the section is, it's a hard task for any developer to get its app to stand out from the crowd.

With this in mind, WhatsApp has done remarkably well to remain one of the highest grossing Android apps over the past two years. It's fundamentally your standard messaging app, where users can send text-based messages to any other contact that has the app installed on their device, with future updates enabling users to share images and videos with any connected contacts. All you need in order to add a contact to your WhatsApp account is their phone number; it's as simple as that.

The WhatsApp team has ported all the main functions of WhatsApp into their new Android Wear version and, for the most part, it works really well. After pairing the app and your phone together, all future messages will appear on your smartwatch. Users can then reply via the app, or simply read through their previous chat history. Similar to other messaging apps,

the development team has included a few clever shortcuts to make reading messages much easier on a smaller smartwatch screen, including zoom and delete functions that are worth checking out. We've covered these and much more in the following steps.



Dismiss conversations

By long pressing on any conversation, you'll be able to delete certain messages or the entire chat history, if you so wish. The action will need to be confirmed on the phone app afterwards.

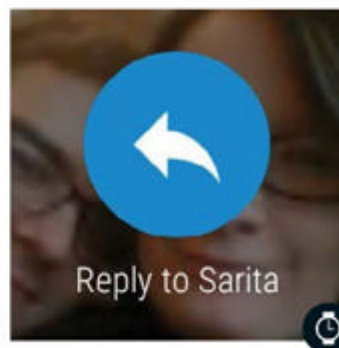
WhatsApp

Explore different chat options



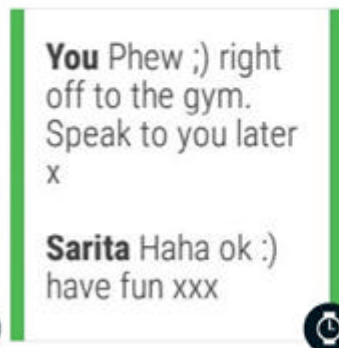
1: See notifications

When a new message comes through, an overview will appear on your smartwatch. Secondary messages will be shown with a +1, which you press to open.



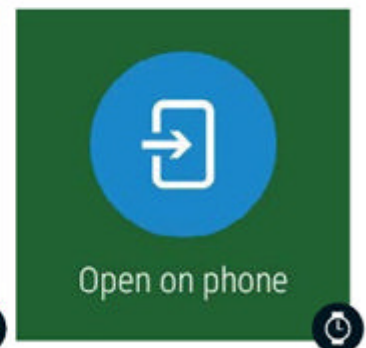
2: Choose to reply

Swipe left and select the reply option. The conversation will now appear and, by pressing a second time, you can use your voice to reply to the message in question.



3: View history

You can scroll up on a conversation and see the messages that have been sent and received previously through the app. It's a good way to review a full chat history.



4: Reply in full

Swipe left on the conversation and you'll have the choice to open it on your phone. It's usually easier to reply to messages this way, as replying on a tiny screen isn't ideal.

Control tracks with Google Play Music

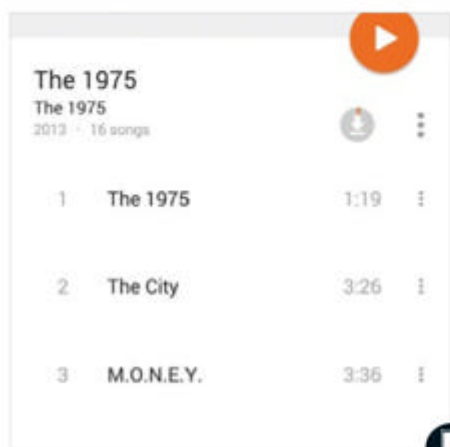
As well as playing back music from your phone, you can load music directly onto your Wear device to use independently



Android Wear is a really useful remote control if you are listening to music on your device, be it through the Google Play Music app or another music player. In addition, Wear devices include 4GB of internal storage, which means they can also function as standalone music players. This is particularly useful for times when you have your watch with you but not your phone – when you are out on a run, for example. Making good use of this storage requires careful planning of what you synchronise (4GB isn't a massive amount of music), particularly awkward as Wear doesn't provide a straightforward way to check how much free space is available. Also bear in mind that playing music directly from the device can have a very detrimental effect on battery life.

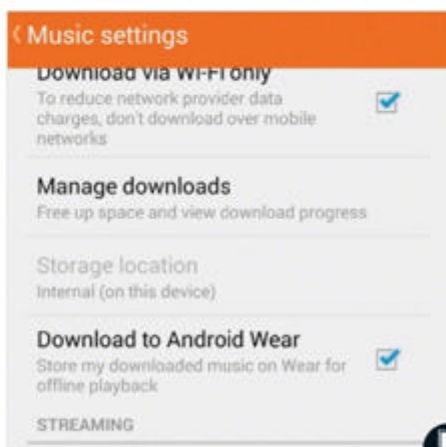
A number of alternative music-player apps are available, and one of the main ones is Sony's Walkman app, which has been developed for its SmartWatch 3 Android Wear device, but also functions perfectly on watches from other brands. Both Walkman and Play Music function as standalone players and remote controls for the phone app, giving the user the best of both worlds.

Google Play Music Enjoy music on your Wear device



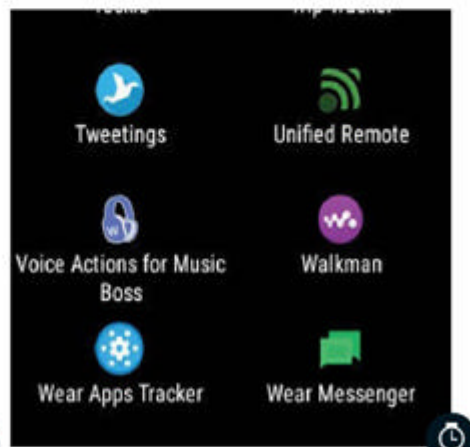
1: Download local music

To play music directly from your watch, it needs to be downloaded and stored locally in the Play Music app. This can be your uploaded music or from the Google library.



2: Enable music sync

Syncing to your Wear device is configured in the Music Settings page of the Google Play Music app. Click Download to Android Wear to enable. All downloaded content will sync.



3: Try the Sony Walkman app

Google Play Music isn't the only option for music playback – if you have a Sony Xperia phone, the latest version of the Walkman app also includes Android Wear support.

Google Play Music

The music interface on Android Wear is both beautiful and functional

Enhanced music control

Music Boss for Android Wear is a third-party app from the Play Store, which improves the music remote functionality considerably. One of the best features is the ability to 'thumbs up' or 'thumbs down' music while listening to a radio station, something that's not possible with the stock controls. Screen off media control is also a great addition.

The Now Playing card

The Now Playing notification card is the one you will normally see – it's adorned with album art in the background and lets you pause, play back or skip backwards and forwards

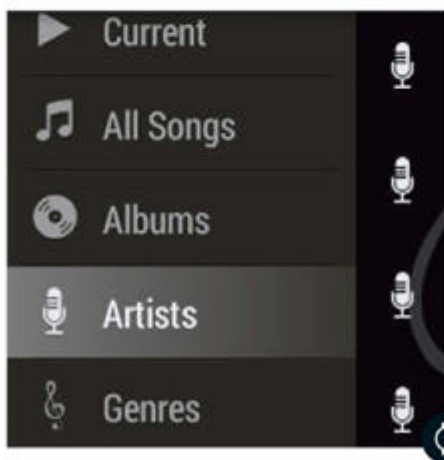
The Download card

The Download notification card appears below the Now Playing card and indicates how many tracks are left to be downloaded to your Android Wear device for offline playback



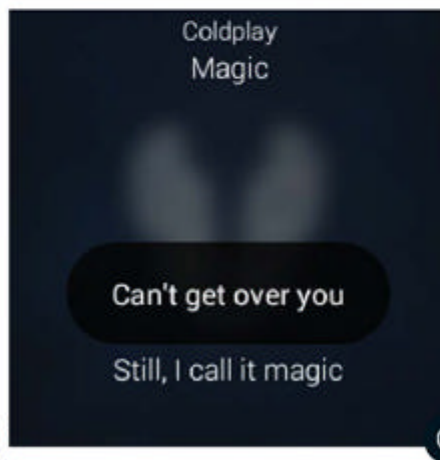
The launcher function

Starting the Play Music app with no headset attached from your watch will automatically launch 'I'm Feeling Lucky Radio' on the connected device; great if you have headphones plugged in.



4: Try Stellio

Stellio, download from XDA-Developers, is a very capable Android Wear music player. It includes an equaliser with 14 effects available, gesture control and customisable album art.



5: Try Musixmatch for lyrics

If you like to sing along, you should try Musixmatch. The app shows lyrics for the currently playing song, directly on your Android Wear device and synced in time to the music.



6: Consider your battery

Playing music on Android Wear is a particularly power-hungry function for the watch – even with an hour of music playback you may struggle to make it through the rest of the day.

Listen to music on the go with Play Music

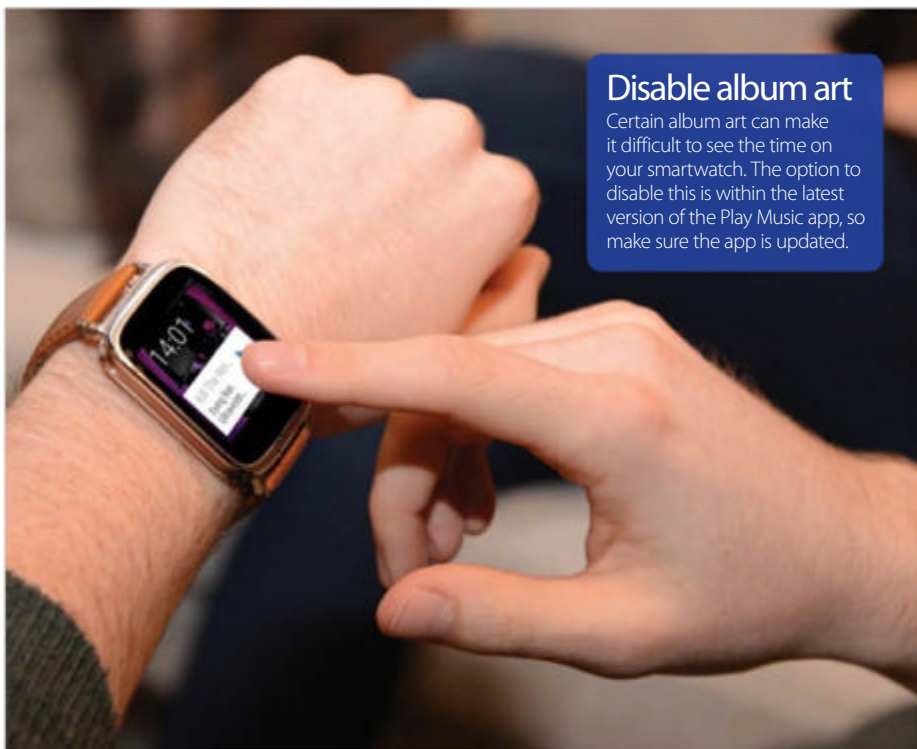
Control your music and manage curated playlists by using Google's official Play Music app, one of the best Wear apps currently available



Play Music has fast become one of the premier music-streaming services available to Android users. With Google's backing it now has one of the largest music libraries in the world, and works seamlessly with Android Wear.

Due to it being a first-party app, the integration of Play Music onto any smartwatch is fantastic, and users have a selection of features that they can take advantage of. As well as controlling the volume and song selection through Android Wear, it's also possible to give ratings to certain songs. The thumbs up and thumbs down icons can be accessed by swiping to the right with the app loaded on your smartwatch, with the rating then shown on your wrist. For newer smartwatches, there's also the addition of being able to add music directly to your smartwatch, an ideal solution if you want to go to the gym and not carry your phone.

"It now has one of the largest music libraries in the world"



Disable album art

Certain album art can make it difficult to see the time on your smartwatch. The option to disable this is within the latest version of the Play Music app, so make sure the app is updated.

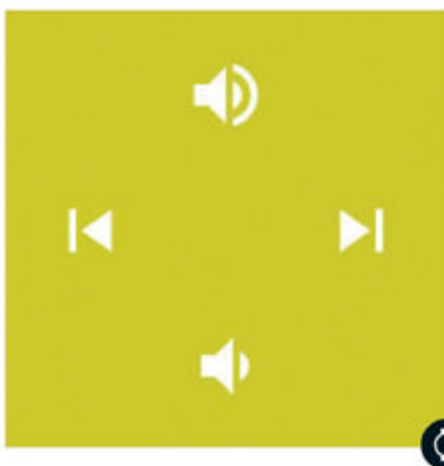
Play Music

Control your music on your wrist



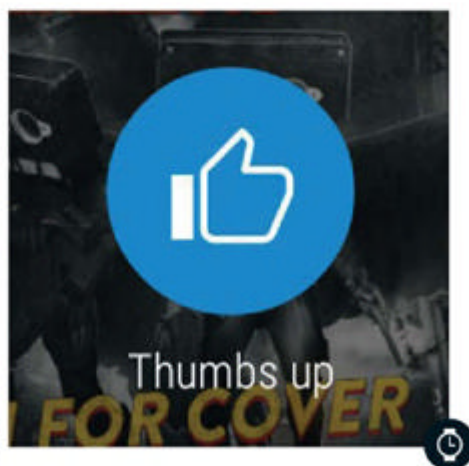
1: See what's playing

The album cover and a play-and-pause menu will appear as soon as you start the music feed on your smartphone. Any music you upload to Play Music will be shown without artwork.



2: Access playback controls

Swipe to the left once and you'll open up a variety of playback controls. Control the volume with the speaker icons, or switch songs with the skip icon on the right of the screen.



3: Leave a rating

If you're enjoying a song you're listening to, swipe left and choose to give the artist a thumbs-up rating. Other users will be able to see these ratings when purchasing music.

Enjoy podcasts on your watch

Keep track of your favourite podcasts, and discover new ones from around the world with the help of the fantastic NPR One app



One of the best things about the Google Play store is the choice of radio-streaming apps that are available for users to download

and try. Although most will instantly go to the brilliant TuneIn app, it unfortunately doesn't include any Android Wear-compatible features at the moment.

To get your radio fix on your smartwatch, users will instead need to download the NPR One app. Although it doesn't have the same variety of stations as TuneIn, what it does include can be streamed at ridiculously high-bit rates. Android Wear users can then switch between stations and use a variety of playback buttons to control the stream in question.

To take it a step further, it's also possible to download your favourite radio station directly on to the watch and stream it directly through it. Follow the steps below to get to grips with NPR One's Android Wear integration.

“Switch between stations and use playback buttons”



Import your own

If you have made your very own podcast, it's possible to upload it to the NPR One and control how it's played back to you on your smartwatch. Go through the phone app and follow the instructions.

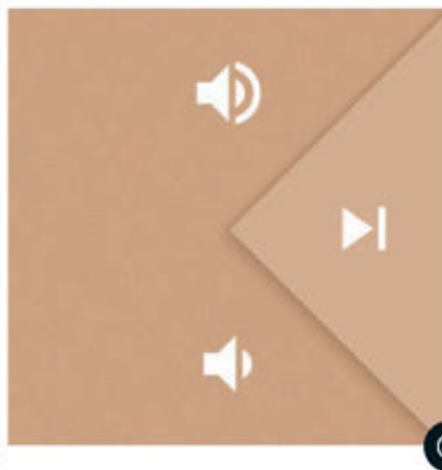
NPR One

Manage playlists with NPR One



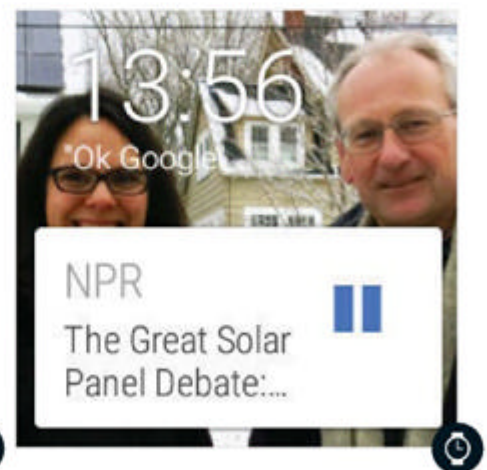
1: Alter the volume

When you first load up a podcast through the NPR One app, use the playback-controls screen to alter the volume levels by pressing at the top or at the bottom of the watch face.



2: Skip podcasts

Alternatively, if you're listening to a playlist, use the skip icon to move back and fourth between different podcasts. The podcasts may take a few seconds to load using this method.



3: Get a closer look

Swipe left to the main screen to get an overview of the podcast that's currently playing. Use the appropriate icons to pause and play, or long press to open up the phone app.

Listen to your favourite shows

Your Android Wear device can be used standalone to listen to podcasts – useful if you go out without your phone



Android Wear is certainly at its most useful when it is connected to a device, but there is a growing trend towards using it in a disconnected state, particularly among watches that are designed for fitness, such as the GPS-enabled Sony SmartWatch 3. When an Android Wear watch is disconnected from the phone, it can already play back music via Google Play Music or another suitable app, but it is also possible to use an app to play back podcasts while standalone, which is great for users who go out for a run without their phone.

Player FM is one podcast app that enables this functionality with Wear support included in a huge list of supported features. In order to take advantage of the functionality you will need to pair a set of Bluetooth headphones to your Android Wear device, which is achieved using the Bluetooth option in the device's Settings menu. When a Bluetooth headset isn't connected, an Android Wear device still functions as a controller for podcast playback on your phone (for example when using wired headphones or the built-in speaker).



“Pair Bluetooth headphones to your device”

The remote functionality also integrates with the Music Boss app on Android Wear. If you are someone who tends to fall asleep while listening to your podcasts, then you will definitely appreciate the sleep timer feature in the app!

Playing on Chromecast

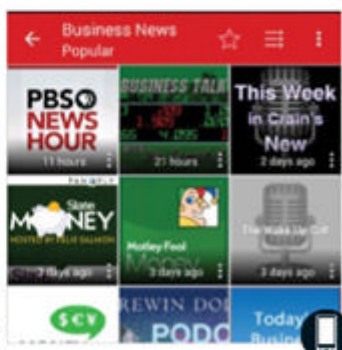
As well as supporting playback on your phone or via Android Wear, Player FM supports playback on a Chromecast. When you do this, your Wear device functions as a remote control.

Player FM Listen to podcasts on your Wear device



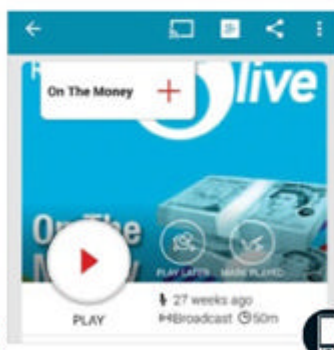
1: Install Player FM

Player FM is a fully featured podcast app for Android. It includes support for playback on a number of devices, including Android Wear. It's free with no ads whatsoever!



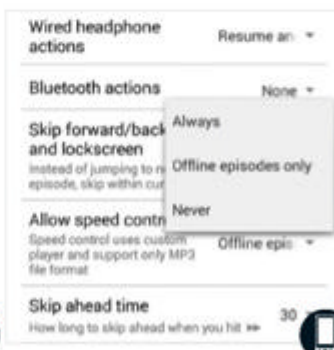
2: Subscribe to content

When you first launch the Player FM app on the phone, it will take you through a wizard, which will allow you to select categories and automatically subscribe to content.



3: Download your content

To listen to your content offline, it needs to be downloaded locally to your device. In the episode details, the button labelled 'Play Later' will initiate the download.

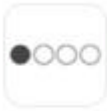


4: Change playback speed

One of the popular podcast player features at the moment is 'speed control', which allows the listener to change the playback speed of the podcast without affecting the pitch.

Keep in time when playing music

If you're a musical buff, then the dMetronome app will be the perfect accompaniment to help keep you in time and stick to a designated beat



When it comes to musical aides, there isn't much of a choice when it comes to Android apps. The

ones on offer tend to be poorly put together, rubbish to use, or cost a fair amount of money. However, one of the more unexpected apps to hit Android Wear is dMetronome.

The app itself is built around a simple piano metronome, making it easier to keep in time with the beat, with an adjustable bar in the centre where you can set your BPM. After you've set how many beats per minute you're playing to, you'll get vibrations on your wrist to keep you in time.

As an added bonus, head into the app's settings menu and play with the layout and colouring of the app to make it easier to see and use for you. It's a simple enough system to use, and saves having to spend money on a full-blown metronome, which is a lot bigger compared to this tiny wrist accompaniment.

"You'll get vibrations on your wrist to keep you in time"



Get extra help

Within the settings menu, enable the Flash Screen option to get a visual guide to help you stay in time with the speed you've set. It's a good substitute to have instead of the usual beeping noise.

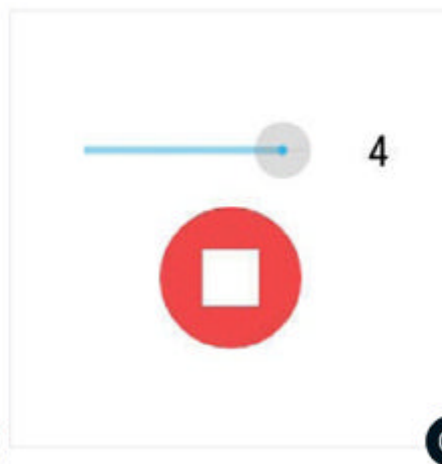
dMetronome

Stick to a designated beat



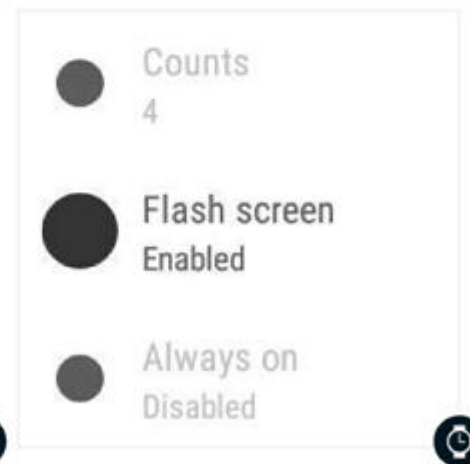
1: Set the timer

Use the slider to pinpoint the overall speed and exact number of beats per minute that you require before pressing the play icon to start the metronome.



2: Stay in time

The app will both vibrate and make a small noise simultaneously whenever the next beat is taking place. Use this system to stay in time and hopefully not miss a beat.



3: Make some changes

The accompanying noise can be quite annoying after a while, but head into the settings app and choose to disable it. Just keep swiping right on your screen until you reach it.

Learn a new language with ease

Become a multilingual genius by learning a selection of languages completely from scratch by taking lessons solely using your smartwatch



If you're anything like us, then learning a new language won't come naturally to you. But thanks to the amazing Google Play store, users have a wide choice when it comes to becoming a lingual master.

Despite numerous competition, Duolingo has long stood as the premier app when it comes to getting to grips with the basics of a foreign language. It offers helpful tutorials for pronunciation, and even includes quizzes for users to partake in. The accompanying Android Wear app is very much the same, just with a few missing features.

After selecting a language of choice, users can find themselves immersed in vocabulary lessons to help pick up the basics. What's great is that you can do this all on your wrist. After a few lessons solely on your smartwatch, open up the phone app and sync your progress across to pick up from where you started.

"Users can find themselves immersed in vocabulary lessons"

Duolingo

Become multilingual



Multiple languages

To extend the languages you can learn through the Android Wear app, you'll need to download additional languages through the corresponding phone app and sync them across.



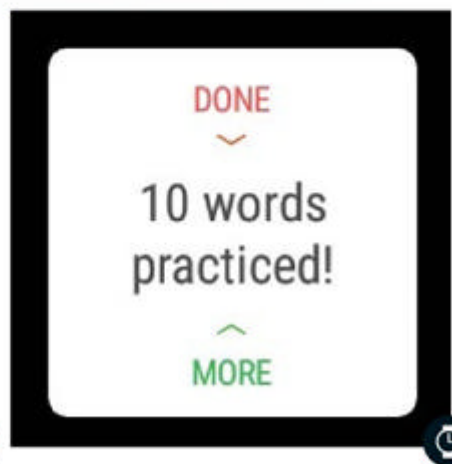
1: Start lessons

Go ahead and select the language you want to learn before pressing the 'Start lesson' option that's provided on the screen. Now follow the in-app instructions to get started.



2: Get corrected

With every word shown, you need to say out loud the corresponding word in Spanish, for example. Choose whether or not you made the right choice after each word without cheating!



3: Track results

At the end of the lesson you'll be able to see how many words you covered and how many you got correct. Now move on to the next lesson or repeat the one you just finished.

Map constellations in the night sky

Star Chart Wear uses the location services in your phone and the compass in your watch in order to help you plot the night sky



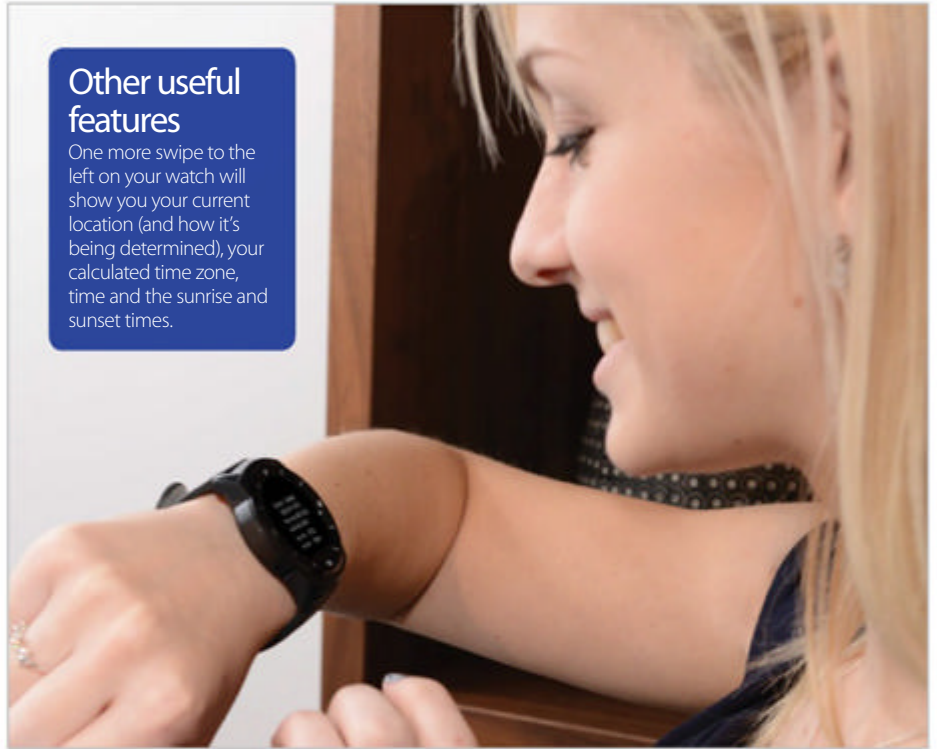
Modern phones and Android Wear devices contain an array of sensors, which can give very detailed information about their

position and movement. Star Chart Wear is a great example of how these sensors can be put to good use – it uses the location capabilities in your phone and the compass that is built into your watch in order to allow you to map the night sky. It performs the same function as the Google Sky Map app, but on your wrist and with the addition of satellite identification! The first time you use the compass on your watch it may not be accurate, so move the watch around in a figure of 8 motion to aid the calibration. Bear in mind the accuracy will also be reduced indoors, so go outside. If required, you can also disable compass mode by long pressing on the screen.

“Bear in mind the accuracy will also be reduced indoors, so go outside”

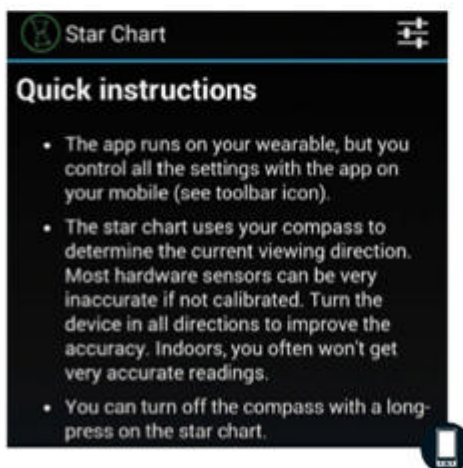
Other useful features

One more swipe to the left on your watch will show you your current location (and how it's being determined), your calculated time zone, time and the sunrise and sunset times.



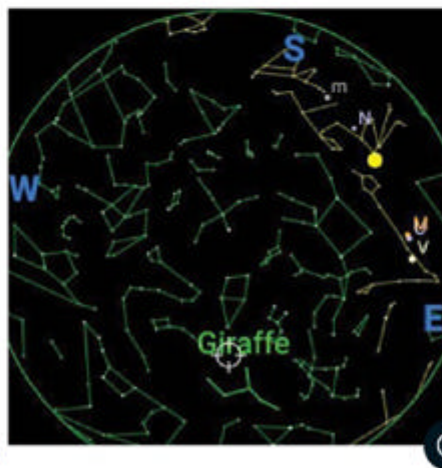
Star Chart Wear

Using and understanding Star Chart Wear



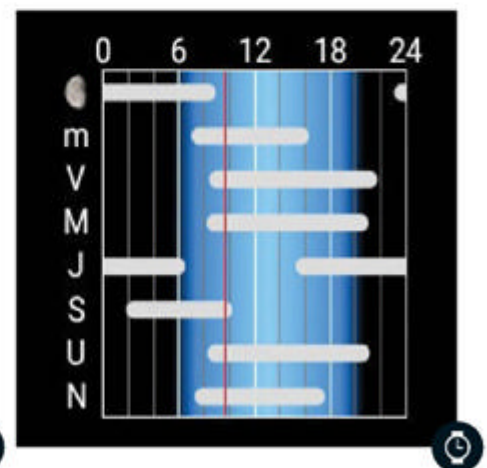
1: Install the app

Star Chart Wear is a free app download from the Play Store. After downloading it, launching the phone app will display basic instructions on how to use the app's main features.



2: Chart the stars

To identify stars and satellites, hold your watch to the sky as if looking 'through' it. Constellations, planets and satellites will all be identified on screen (planets are abbreviated).



3: View rise and set times

Swiping left when in the normal mode will switch to a screen on your watch showing the rise and set times for the various planets in our solar system.

Find new apps to suit your interests

Having trouble finding Android Wear apps? Blue Colony stores every app that's compatible with your smartwatch, and lets you download them with ease



Although the scale of the Google Play store is fantastic, trying to sift through thousands of apps isn't the easiest job to undertake.

The Wear section, in particular, is surprisingly hard to find, so that's where an app like Blue Colony comes in handy. The app itself is a Wear-dedicated app store that is fully accessible on your smartwatch. After a quick set-up process, users can navigate between the various categories, and find the Wear-dedicated apps contained within. It's then a case of opening the app and waiting for it to download directly onto your smartphone.

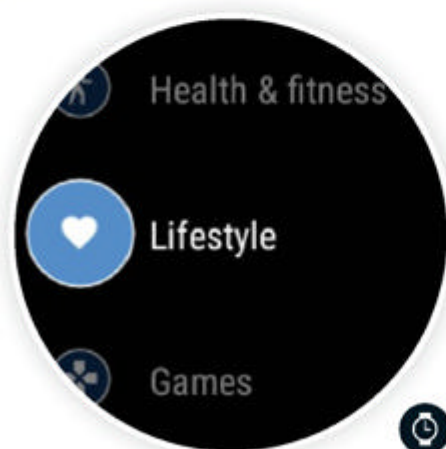
There are also some close resemblances to the Google Play store in Blue Colony. For example, you can leave a review for any app you download, and share a link to it with fellow Android Wear users. So, instead of trawling through the Play store, download the Blue Colony app and save yourself some time.

"Download the Blue Colony app and save yourself some time"



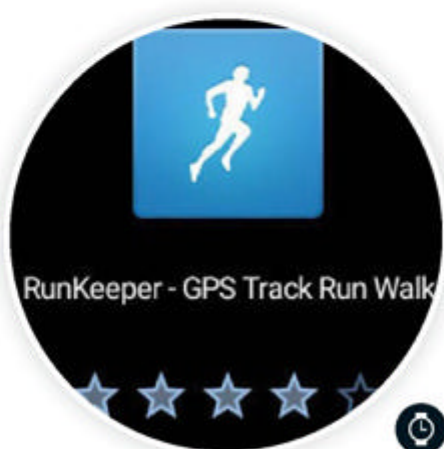
Blue Colony

Download great apps



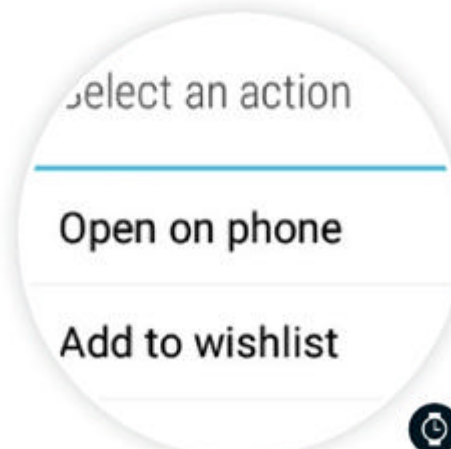
1: Find a new app

Scroll down until you reach the 'categories' option, and swipe right to find and select an app that's of interest to you. The app will take a few seconds to load.



2: Get an overview

You can swipe down on the app to read an overview of its features and see some screenshots. Swipe right to explore some of the additional options that are available.



3: Start the download

Now select the Open on phone option to get the app loaded on the Google Play store. Then download and install to get it on your watch in a matter of minutes.

Let your watch make the decisions

Struggling to make your own decisions? The Decidr app uses a randomised system to help make any sort of decision easier to manage



Okay, be honest, how indecisive are you? If your answer is 'very', then the Decidr app will most likely be one of the first apps you need to download for your smartwatch.

If you've got a tough choice to make, or simply need a bit of guidance, Decidr is on hand to randomly help you make a decision. Android Wear users can choose from a variety of predetermined settings, including being able to decide simple yes or no decisions, or perhaps to help make a decision in a game of spin the bottle. All of these options can be enabled on your Android smartphone, and will then appear directly on your Wear device.

Decidr is obviously an app that shouldn't be used for important decisions, but if you're struggling with deciding what to wear on a night out, or if you should buy Taylor Swift's new album, then perhaps this app will push you in the right direction.

"Decidr is on hand to randomly help you make a decision"

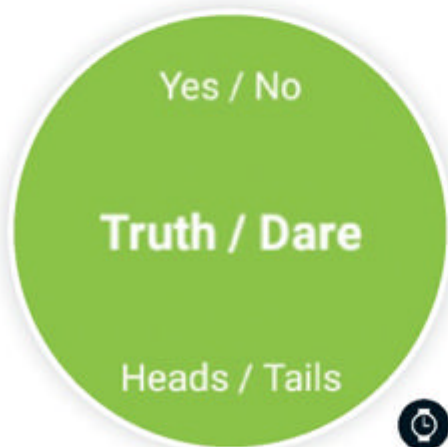
Decidr

Make tricky decisions with ease



Nullify vibrations

If you decide that the constant vibration from Decidr is rather annoying, then disable it within the app's settings menu. Just head back to the home screen and swipe up to access the settings.



1: Choose from the menu

Swipe up and down within the app to select the kind of decision you need to make. Press the option once you've made your choice, and press a second time to confirm.



2: Get your decision

Your watch will vibrate, and Decidr's decision will now be shown. This could take a few seconds to process. Press on it again to get a different decision or ask a new question.



3: Try the Magic 8-Ball

For more complex questions, make sure you check out the 8-Ball feature to get precise and definitive answers to your question. They're more detailed than other available decisions.

Tackle difficult games on your device

Wear Orbits is a fiendishly difficult game where you need to avoid making contact with other planets in your orbit. The fate of mankind is in your hands



Teensy Studios are one of the first premier developers to start developing exclusive games for Android Wear (a few of which

we're covering in this book). Although you'll find that most of these games are fairly basic, they do in fact use a good portion of the RAM and CPU capabilities that most smartwatches can offer; especially some of the older LG and Sony smartwatches that are still available.

Wear Orbits puts you in control of your own planet as you perform orbits around the sun. The main aim is to avoid all sorts of oncoming obstacles that are intent on destroying your planet, and to do so you need quick reflexes to swipe on your screen and go between orbits. Once your planet is hit, you'll be given a score, which you can share with your friends and keep trying to beat thanks to the Google Play Games integration that you'll be able to use.

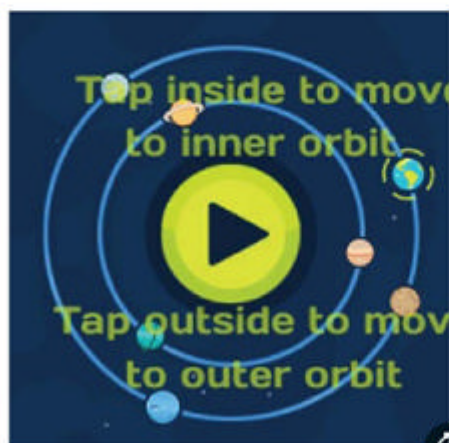
"Wear Orbits puts you in control of your very own planet"



Speed is everything

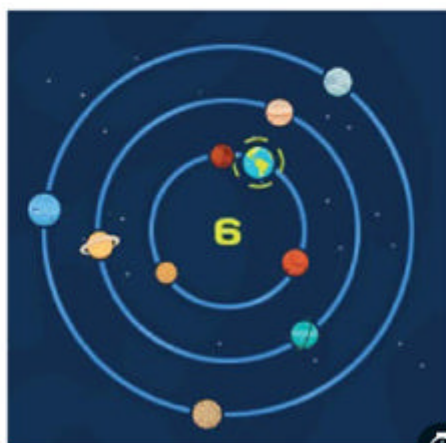
To achieve a higher score in *Wear Orbits*, pay close attention to the speed at which the other planets are moving in relation to you. Then simply move in and out to avoid them.

Wear Orbits Don't make contact with other planets



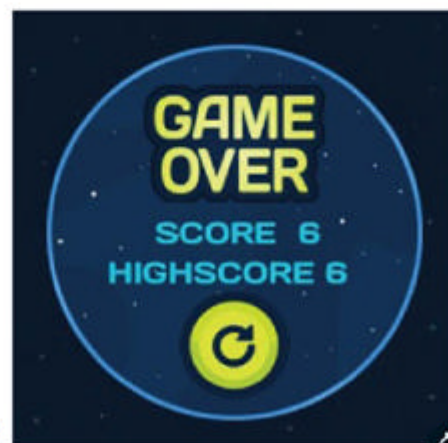
1: Read the instructions

When you first open the app, make sure you read the various tutorial instructions provided to help you master the game quickly. These are vital in providing you with helpful tips.



2: Switch orbits

When playing, press on the centre of the screen to move in, and press on the outside of the screen to move to an outer orbit. Press the screen fairly hard for the move to register.



3: Beat your high score

At the end of the game, you'll be notified of your high score. Use the leaderboard icon to track how you compare to other players. The score will then update in Google Play Games.

Play games against your friends

Enjoy a classic game of the counter-capturing Reversi by yourself or with any nearby friends using any Android Wear smartwatch and this simple app



Reversi is one of the most popular board games around, and after several versions of it being downloaded multiple times from

the Play store, this version is one of a few games to be readily available for Android Wear users. The premise of the game is simple: turn your opponent's tiles into your colour by placing them strategically on the board and preventing them from turning your tiles into their colour.

What makes this version of the game so great is the amount of options that are readily available for users to explore. The single-player mode can be tackled on various difficulties, or you can play a two-player game all on your wrist. What makes it even better are the additional controls as you play. For example, by double pressing on the board, you'll be zoomed in to a cropped section of it, making it easier to place your tile in an exact spot.

"What makes this version so great is the amount of options"

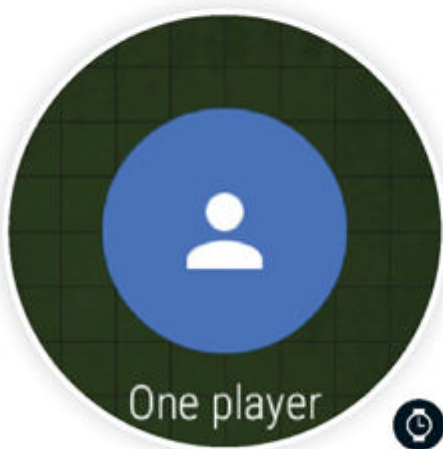


Take a closer look

If you've chosen to use a large board, double-press on your screen to zoom in and take a closer look at where you should place your tile, or use two fingers to rotate the screen.

Reversi for Wear

Capture opposing tiles



1: Decide on players

Go through the main menu and select whether or not you want to play the game by yourself or with a friend. It's a good idea to take your smartwatch off so both players can access it.



2: Configure the game

The next few screens help you set up the game. They include choosing the size of the board you'll play on, and the colour you want to play as. Make your choices and press the play icon.



3: Start to play

Begin the game and get capturing the opposing tiles. You'll be notified of the final score at the end, and an option to replay the game using the same settings as before.

Achieve high scores on your wear

Keep your bird flapping about for as long as possible in order to achieve a high score in this spike-dodging game from Teensy Studios



There are some extremely frustrating games available to download from the Google Play store, but until now there hasn't been one available for use on your Android Wear smartwatch. *Deadly Spikes* puts you in control of a tiny bird as you navigate him through a treacherous course of spiked walls for as long as possible. The further you get, the bigger score you'll accumulate and the more you'll be able to show off to your friends.

As you delve deeper into the course, spikes will become larger, and the time for you to press your watch to get your bird moving will become less and less.

For those who care about what high score they can set their friends, make sure you pick up the added bits of candy that litter the course, as they will give your score a massive boost, which you'll find even more helpful if you keep getting stuck at a certain point in the course.

"Pick up the added bits of candy that litter the course"



Collect the candy

To increase your score, try and collect the various pieces of candy that will occasionally appear as you play. Be quick, as they will soon disappear from your game.

Deadly Spikes

Learn to dodge them



1: Start playing

Press on the play icon to start a game. Press the screen systematically to keep the bird from making contact with any spikes or touching the deadly floor and ceiling.



2: Post a high score

Once you die, a high score will appear. Whenever you subsequently play another round of *Deadly Spikes*, you'll need to target this score and attempt to beat it.



3: Buy extras

Use the store icon to buy new birds and various costumes to use within the game. You can add payment options on your smartphone to pay for these items on your watch.

Add to your gaming strategy

TetroCrate takes the game of Tetris to the next level, with high-difficulty levels and a degree of skill needed to keep the crate of blocks growing



Tetris is a game that many of us grew up with. Who knew that block building could be so addictive? So addictive, in fact, that

we've seen numerous versions hit the Google Play store over the past few years. While most are poor knock-offs of the original game, some are definitely worth checking out. One of the biggest updates to the original *Tetris* idea was to incorporate 3D blocks into the building process. The end product of this brainwave is *TetroCrate*, which has also undergone several big updates.

While the Android Wear version isn't the best version of the game you can play, it does provide the only version of *Tetris* that's currently available for your wrist. Users can look to piece blocks together and use a variety of helpful shortcuts to make piecing the puzzle together a lot easier. It's then a case of setting a high score and getting your friends to beat it.

"The only version of Tetris that's available for your wrist"

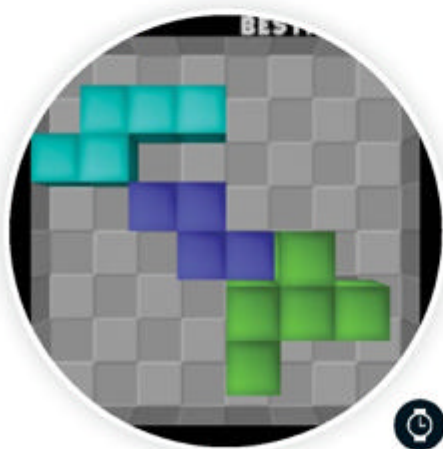


Adjust your view

Due to the 3D blocks used, make sure you zoom in and out of the grid by pinching your fingers on the screen to get a better view. It's a helpful tip when you've got numerous blocks on your screen.

TetroCrate

Become an expert block-builder



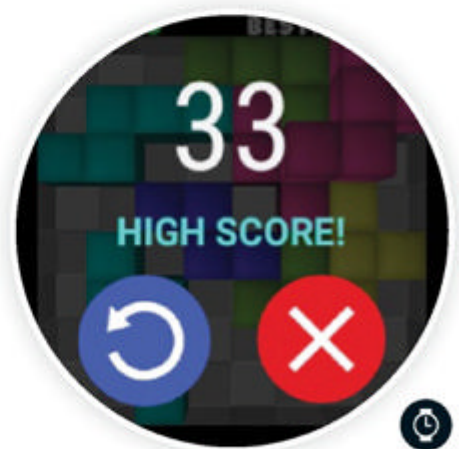
1: Piece together blocks

After setting up a new game, place the various blocks in the grid that's provided. Double-press to set any block down. Try to use all the space provided and spread out your blocks.



2: Fill in the gaps

Rotate two fingers on the smartwatch screen to rotate a block in any direction. This can be useful to help fill awkward gaps and get a different view of the grid you're filling.



3: Set a high score

At the end of the game you'll be shown the score you've set. Use the replay icon to start again and attempt to beat this. You can also challenge friends to try and beat you.

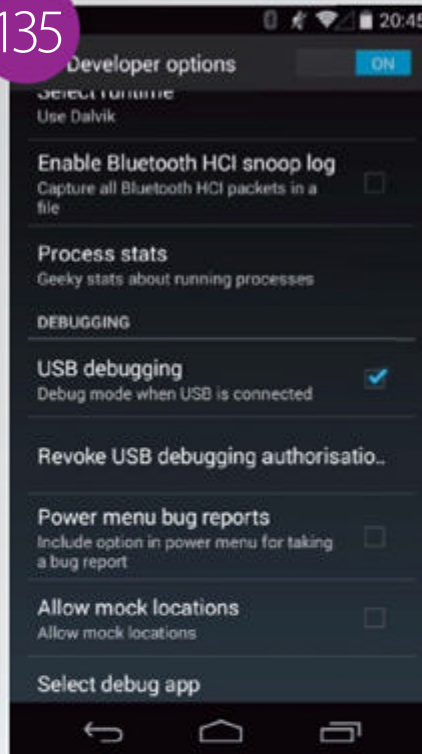


Hacks

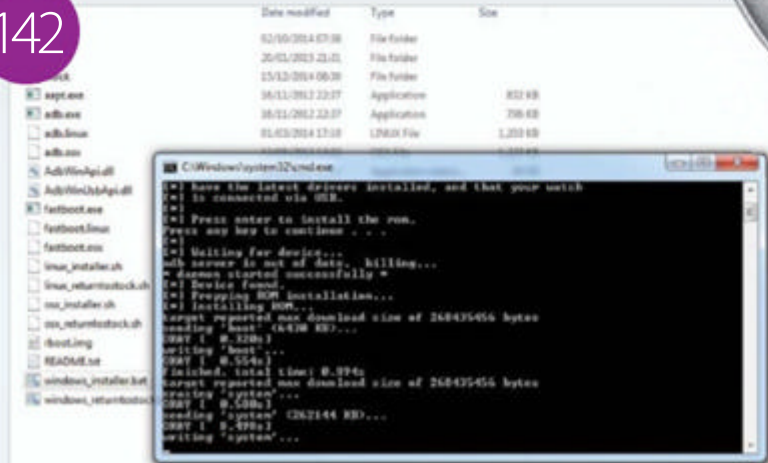
There is so much more to get out of your device than you thought, start by hacking your Wear today!

- 128** **Root your Wear device**
Start the process for custom modifications
- 130** **Play retro games**
Want Mario on your watch? Look no further
- 132** **Change vibration strength**
Make your watch's vibration stronger
- 133** **Re-sign a ROM**
Give yourself better custom access
- 134** **Automate Wear with Tasker**
Help your Wear's performance
- 135** **Enable developer options for flexibility**
Open the gateway for hacking
- 136** **Create your own watch faces**
Take your watch's look to the next level
- 138** **Optimise your G Watch with a Custom ROM**
Download this ROM for G Watch optimisation
- 140** **Install hundreds of Android apps**
Sideload your applications to your watch
- 142** **Take more control with Gohma**
Increase control and extend your battery life

135



142



128

Developer options

Stay awake when charging

Disabled

Bluetooth snoop logging

Disabled

ADB debugging

"The reasons for needing root access on your Android Wear device aren't as clear-cut, but that doesn't mean that it isn't possible"



134

Root your Android Wear device

Root access will enable you to modify more aspects of your device ready for the rest of the hacks

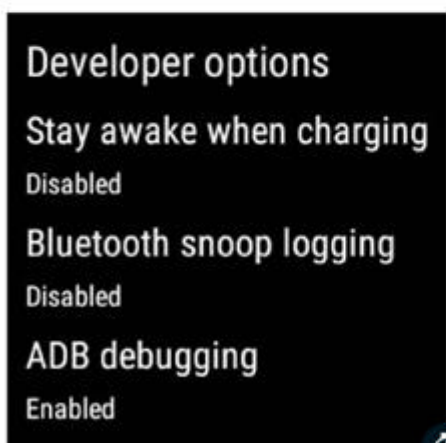


The reasons for needing root access on your Android Wear device aren't as clear-cut as on your phone or tablet, but that doesn't mean that it isn't possible and that there are not advantages to rooting your device. You can't use Xposed, for example, because it's not currently supported on Lollipop. There are no mainstream apps that require root to speak of either. So why do it? The main reason is that when you connect in via ADB, root access gives you an enhanced ability to modify the system partition, enable/disable apps and change just about anything on the device you choose.

"If your watch ever fails and needs a factory reset, you can root it again and then restore the backups"

Root Wear

Prepare your device for rooting



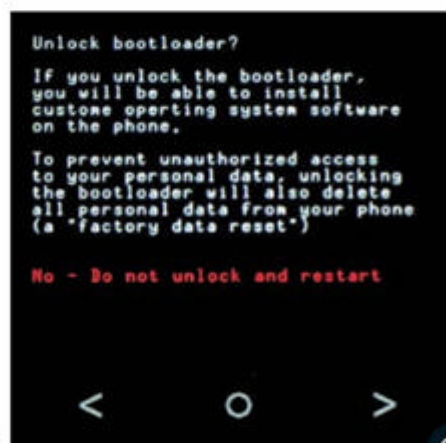
1: Enable ADB access

To enable ADB access, tap the screen, Go to Settings>About. Scroll to the Build number and tap on it until the message 'You are now a developer' appears.



2: Reboot to bootloader

You'll need to unlock your bootloader. Use the ADB reboot bootloader command to reboot to the bootloader – you will be prompted to authorise your computer via USB for security.



3: Apply the OEM unlock

When your device is at the bootloader screen, use the command 'fastboot oem' unlock to start the unlock process. You will now be prompted to confirm on the watch.

The benefits of TWRP

The custom recovery on your watch has many features you can use

Rooted phone?

You don't need a rooted phone to have a rooted smartwatch – in fact it's easier and quicker to root a watch than it is to root your Android device. There's less restoring of contacts and apps and home screen layout to deal with, and you get a better watch in the process

Backup your watch

A simple yet very useful feature, rooting your watch is the only true way to get a proper backup created of the device rather than saving some settings

Restore your watch

If your watch ever fails and needs a factory reset, you can root it again and then restore the backups you made before, bringing your watch back to the way it was

Return to factory settings

It's easier and faster to completely wipe your watch if you ever need to, while still retaining the new recovery and the root privileges it allows you to install



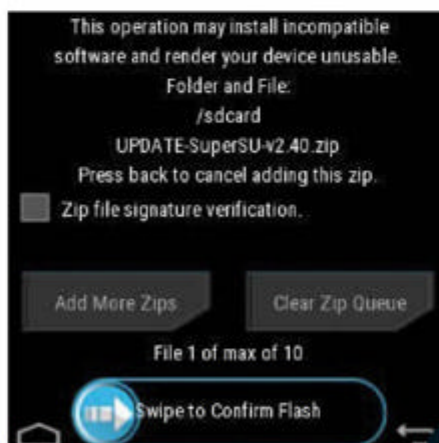
"You can't use Xposed, for example, because it's not currently supported on Lollipop"

```

bash
Pauls-iMac:Downloads paulobrie
Pauls-iMac:Downloads paulobrie
downloading 'boot.img'...
OKAY [ 0.620s]
booting...
OKAY [ 0.096s]
finished. total time: 0.717s
Pauls-iMac:Downloads paulobrie
  
```

4: Boot TWRP

You can get the LG G Watch recovery from teamw.in/project/twrp2/242. After, while in bootloader mode, use fastboot boot openrecovery-twrp-2.8.1.0-dory.img to load.



5: Install SuperSU

After booting TWRP, you will need to download the latest SuperSU update ZIP. Push this to your watch using ADB then apply it using the 'recovery install zip' option.



6: Check root access

When done, go ahead and boot your devices. You can check that the process was successful by connecting using adb shell and issuing the su command for root privileges.

Play retro games on Android Wear

It might be small, but you can still play classic console games on your watch!
Download an emulator today and get playing

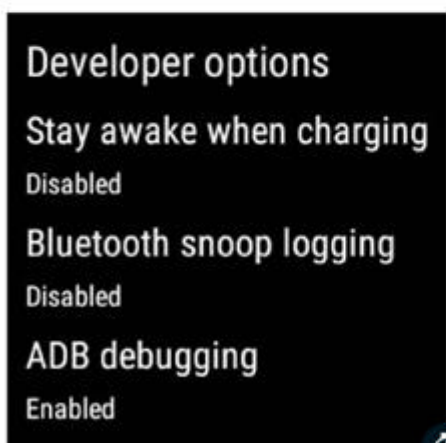


The screen on your Android Wear device might seem unfeasibly small for use as a gaming machine. But, your watch is actually

a pretty powerful machine for it's small size, and in fact most of the watches on the market today feature a Snapdragon 400 processor, which powers phones such as the Moto G. It's definitely more powerful than the handheld games consoles of old, which also had small screens in comparison to the screens of today. It's a great setup for short-burst gaming. As you might expect, the old GameBoy or PlayStation 1 games only really work well on square-screened Android Wear devices. Make sure to check the terms and conditions of the games you are looking to emulate.

"Your Android Wear watch is actually a pretty powerful machine for it's relatively small size"

Emulator Play retro games on your wrist



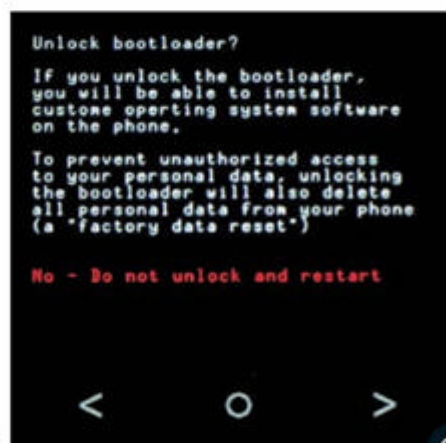
1: Download the emulator

To get GameBoy Color games on your device, download the VGB emulator on your phone from the Play store at bit.ly/1xBXz5r. Also download App Backup & Restore from bit.ly/1cdWI4D. This will let you save the VGB APK.



2: Extract the APK

There's no way to download APKs directly onto your device, you will need to extract it from your phone to sideload. App Backup & Restore will help you to do this – it will save APKs to the SD card or enable you to send to yourself via email.



3: Install the APK

With the APK on your PC, you can install it onto your device. With your watch connected via USB, use the command `adb install filename.apk` to do this. After the successful install message, you should be able to launch the app on your device.

Know your limits

Playing retro games on Android Wear is fun, but it's not perfect

No phone connection

While playing with a controller, your watch will lose connection with any connected Android devices. The game app will run fine on the watch without it, but you won't get notifications

Not so many emulators

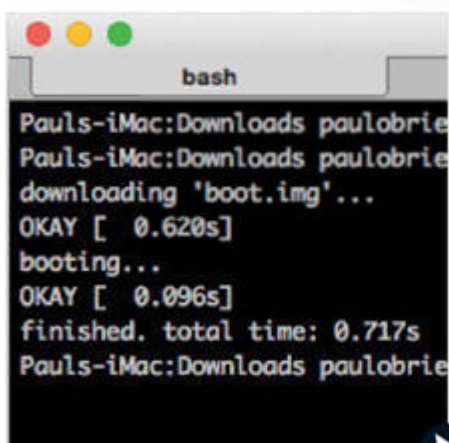
GameBoy Color and PlayStation emulators work just fine on the watches, but right now there are not really any solutions for using SNES or Mega Drive games on the watch. Yet

Battery decay

Although emulating old hardware should be easy, due to the software emulation process it will take up significantly more resources than the original hardware. This will drain the battery

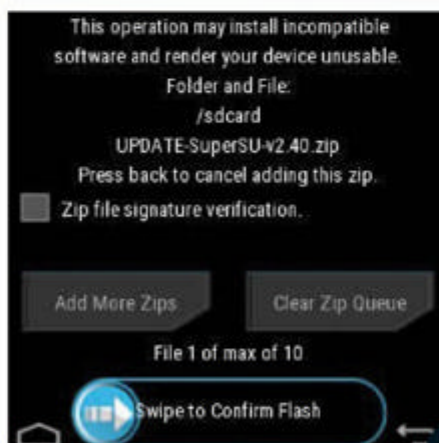
See the screen

Some Android bluetooth controllers have little docks on them to store your Android phone, allowing you to see the screen properly as you play. How can you see your watch screen though? Using the strap of course – take it off your wrist, put the straps back together and position it on a surface in front of you at an angle.



4: Pair a controller

You will need to pair a Bluetooth game pad controller. Put the controller in pairing mode and use the Bluetooth menu in Settings on your watch to scan for devices. Beelink is a useful Bluetooth utility bit.ly/1C0D7QZ.



5: Play PlayStation games

You can also play PlayStation games on your Android Wear device courtesy of ePSXe! ePSXe can be downloaded from the Play store at bit.ly/RaSwtd and the APK extracted in exactly the same way.



6: Uninstall your apps

It's worth trying different APKs on your device to see what works best. But do remove them if you're not using them. To list installed packages, use `adb shell pm list packages` and to uninstall, use `adb shell pm uninstall packagename`.

Change vibration strength

Missing alerts or your watch vibrates too violently? You can change Wear's vibration intensity to suit your requirements



It's bad enough that we sometimes don't feel our phones vibrating in our pocket (we'll call you later, mum!), but having a

smartwatch which has the specific function of alerting you to notifications on your phone and not feeling that? Infuriating. Android Wear actually puts a limit on the strength of vibration on watches, and while there's a pretty solid medical reason to do this and not give you RSI, it's your body and your watch.

Luckily, with a rooted watch and a little know-how about Android, you can remove these limits and have the motor work harder to let you know when a new email comes through to your account.

As well as possible health issues, you will also be draining the battery life faster than before as the motors will require much more energy to run, so use it with caution and always keep an eye on your energy consumption.

"You can have the motor work harder to alert you"

Faster testing

If you want to test the values once you've set them, you'll have to disconnect the watch and get on your wrist again, before taking it off and reconnecting to change it further. Get around this by using adb over bluetooth.



Root access

Adjust vibration settings

```
Pauls-iMac:Desktop paulobrien$ adb
shell@dory:/ $ su
root@dory:/ #
```

1: Load root shell

The custom vibration settings are applied using ADB and require you to have root access on the command line. Use adb shell followed by su and ensure you then have a # prompt.

```
Pauls-iMac:Desktop paulobrien$ adb
shell@dory:/ $ su
root@dory:/ # echo 85 > /sys/class/timed_output/vibrator/amp
root@dory:/ # echo 120 > /sys/class/timed_output/vibrator/driving_ms
root@dory:/ #
```

2: Custom values

Use echo 85 > /sys/class/timed_output/vibrator/amp' and 'echo 120 > /sys/class/timed_output/vibrator/driving_ms for vibration values. Don't use over 100 for amp or 180 for driving_ms.

```
File Path ▾ ~ /Desktop/install-recovery.sh
install-recovery.sh
1 #!/system/bin/sh
2
3 # If you're implementing this in a custom kernel/r
4 # I suggest you use a different script name, and a
5 # to launch it from init.rc
6
7 # launches SuperSU in daemon mode only on Android
8 # Nothing will happen on 4.2.x or older, unless SE
9 # If you want to force loading the daemon, use "
10
11 /system/xbin/daemonsu --auto-daemon &
12
13 # Some apps like to run stuff from this script as
14 # obviously break root - in your code, just search
15 # for "install-recovery-2.sh", and if present, wr
16
17 /system/etc/install-recovery-2.sh
18
19 # added lines for stronger vibrate
20
21 echo 85 > /sys/class/timed_output/vibrator/amp
22 echo 120 > /sys/class/timed_output/vibrator/driving_ms
23
```

3: Apply on reboot

The changes to vibrate strength are lost each time the device reboots. Add the commands to /system/etc/install-recovery.sh to maintain them even after rebooting.

Re-sign a ROM

If you are writing apps and you want access to platform-level system permissions, you can re-sign the stock ROM



Android and Android Wear limits some app's ability to use specific functions that require a deeper use of the operating

system and hardware. Stuff like not being able to combine the different radios or some of the deeper phone technology. This protection is there for a couple of reasons – such as stopping malicious software and people bricking their phones – and it's stopped by the OS itself.

If you're creating an app yourself for personal use, this can cause issues if you're trying to access deeper system settings. Luckily, the hacker community have managed to create re-signers to change the ROMs just enough so you can access more of the watches capabilities. You can always revert back to the stock ROM if you'd rather apps don't quite have full access to your watch in the future.

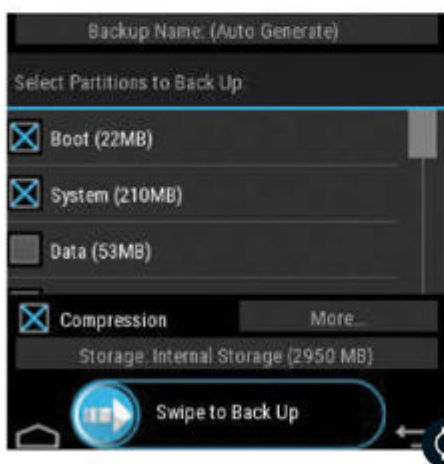
"They have managed to create re-signers to change the ROMs"



To add or remove

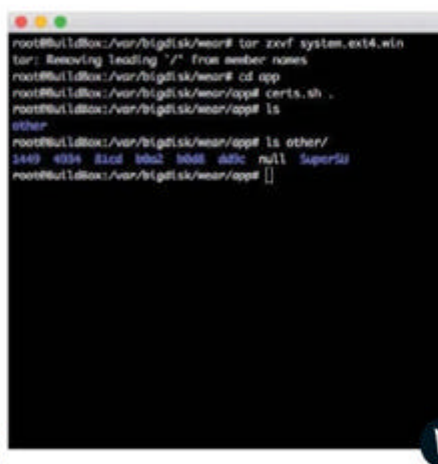
Signing ROMs is commonly used to add your favourite apk/app to the ROM so that you have it from the start, but it can also be used to remove apps you don't want, such as bloatware.

ROM Re-sign your ROMs for personalisation



1: Dump the ROM

First you need to dump the stock ROM, which is best achieved using TWRP. Use the backup option, which will create a gzipped file that you can easily modify later.



2: Open and re-sign the ROM

Extract on your (ideally Linux) computer, and use the certs.sh script from MoDaCo.com to split the files. Use jarsigner to sign the platform JARs (SystemUI) with your own key.



3: Wipe and restore

When flashing a re-signed image, you must wipe or you will get stuck in a bootloop. Copy the image to a duplicate of the TWRP backup directory and restore as normal.

Automate Android Wear with Tasker

Tasker is a power tool to automate your Android phone or tablet, but you can automate your watch too!



Tasker on Android can be essential for some people, and really everyone should give it a go to see if it can help their

Android devices perform better. Automating your phone's functions based on location, connections, charging and so much more is one of the greatest benefits of Android. Forgetting to switch your phone to silent at work? Make it location aware and have it create a custom profile for when you're in range of appropriate cell towers. Wi-Fi a bit spotty at certain cafes? Have it use mobile data instead.

Now the excellent people at Tasker have created a new version specifically to work on Android Wear, and it's a godsend. With the limited battery on watches, having it perform battery saving tasks involving screen brightness and app updating depending on the situation can allow you to eke a little bit more out of your watch before you have to recharge.

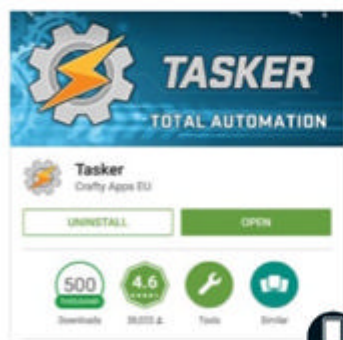


It hooks into your phone to be location aware and sense changes in the environment, but there are some things that can only be done via the watch. Check out the tutorial to get an idea about what you can do with your watch.

Be Bond

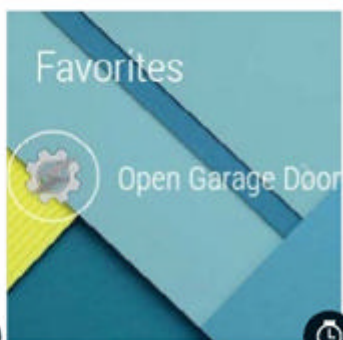
One of the best tricks is 'Wake on Lan': have your PC turn on when your phone connects to Wi-Fi. With any WOL app with a widget, you can add a button to turn on your PC from your Wear device.

Tasker Automate your Android Wear



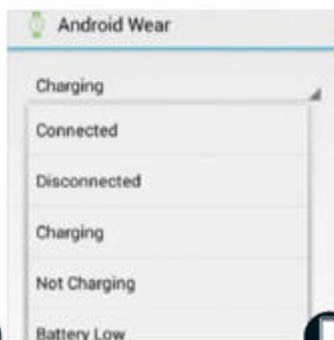
1: Install Tasker

Tasker is a paid application from the Play store (a free trial is available from the developers at bit.ly/1GuN74N). It has a UI which is confusing at first, but once you've got the hang of its quirks, it's a powerful tool.



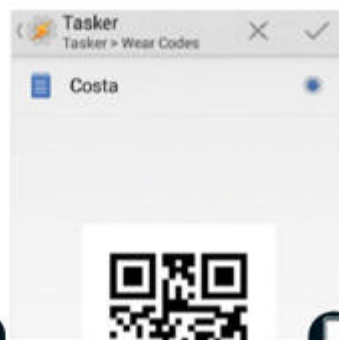
2: Run Tasker tasks

There are two ways to use Tasker. The first triggers Tasker tasks directly from your watch using WearTasker bit.ly/1EynjED. Send responses back to the watch using Tasker's notification feature too.



3: Monitor your device

As well as launching tasks on your phone, Tasker can monitor events on your Wear device (such as battery status, connection state and more). Use Tasker Plugin for Android Wear to do this (bit.ly/1BCncDB).



4: Enable loyalty cards

You can also replicate your loyalty cards onto your watch with the Wear Codes app (bit.ly/1O9OIrj). Use Tasker location profiles to display the right cards when you're near the appropriate store.

Enable developer options for flexibility

Developer options offer you the chance to customise and change the way your Android Wear device works in many different ways. Plus, they are easy to enable

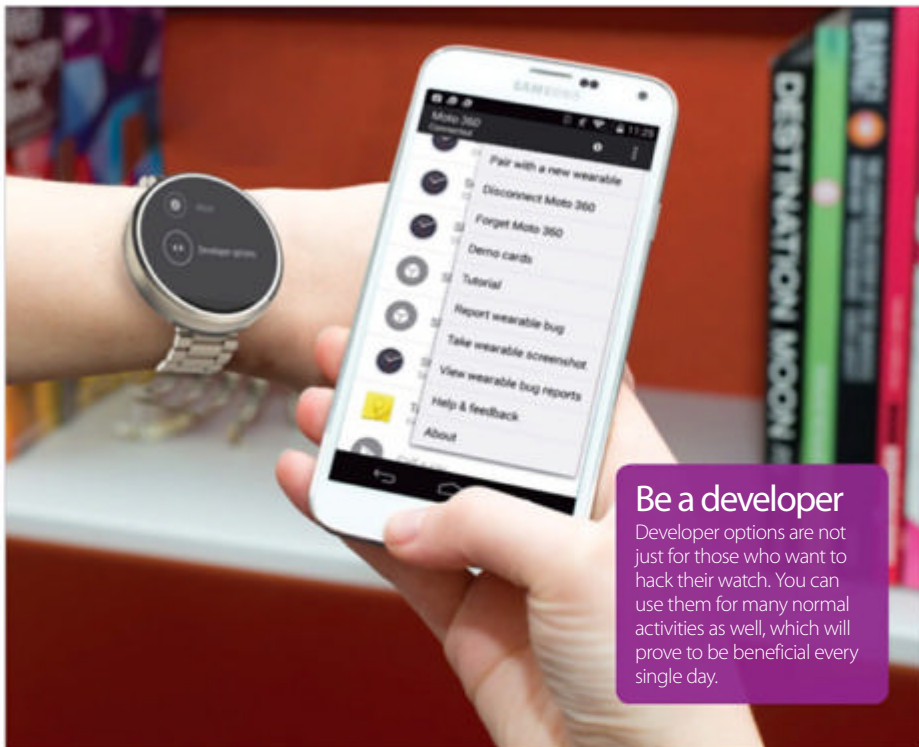


Developer options are well known within the Android community, and it is true that they have often been seen as purely for those who like to hack and tweak their devices.

They do offer advanced functionality and are good for those needs, but once enabled you will be able to take screenshots of your watch directly from your phone, keep the watch on while it is charging and then explore further what really is possible.

The activation process is quick, and you should not stumble, but hopefully our guide will reassure you that they have been enabled correctly ready for you to explore. As time passes, expect to see many more uses for developer options, but you should remember that the Android Wear system is relatively new and as such there are a limited number of tweaks currently available. This will change very quickly though to give you more options.

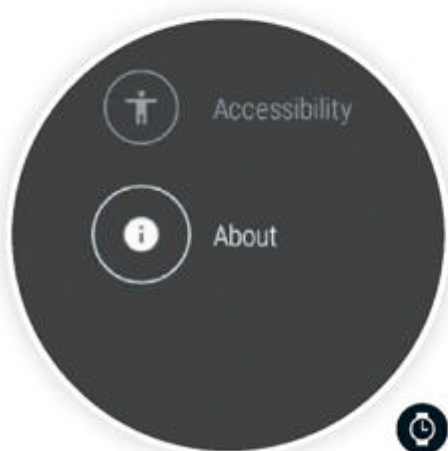
“Take screenshots and keep the watch on while it is charging”



Be a developer

Developer options are not just for those who want to hack their watch. You can use them for many normal activities as well, which will prove to be beneficial every single day.

Android Wear Use extra Android Wear options



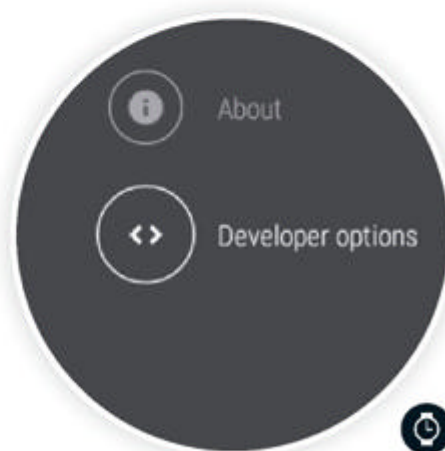
1: Learn about your device

Tap the screen of your watch and then scroll down to 'Settings'. Now scroll down until you see the 'About' option. Tap this to see detail information about your particular model.



2: Tap the build number

You now need to tap the Build number many times to activate developer options. You will be notified as to how many more taps are needed to complete the process, but it will work.

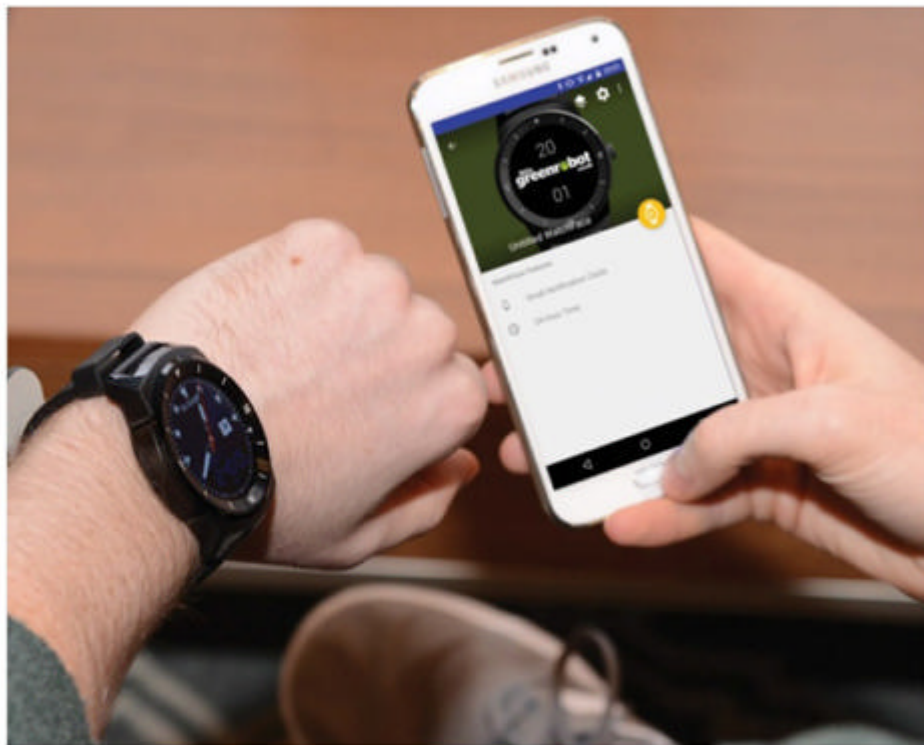


3: View advanced features

In the Settings list you should now see 'Developer options' at the bottom. Tap it to see what advanced features can now be used. Some will be available in the Android Wear app.

Create your own watch faces

Can't find a watch face that you like for your Android Wear? Then why not make one that suits you?



As the number of Android Wear devices grows, so too does the number of watchfaces as we see developer support really start to

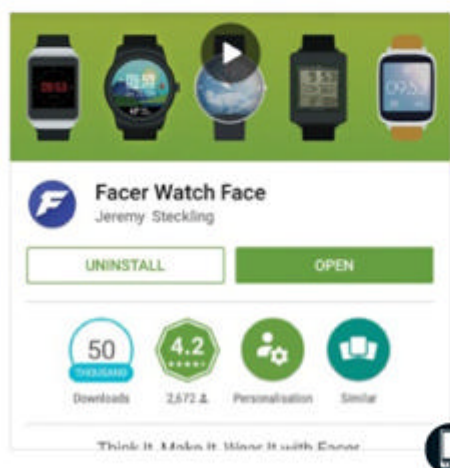
pick up. Nevertheless, it is always fun to create a watchface of your very own, either to install on your own device, to share with your friends or to offer it to others for download for themselves on the Play store. Take a look at the tutorial below to see how you can create your own watchfaces.

Google have now released the official developer guidelines for creating your own watchfaces at bit.ly/1EvC6xA so that you can choose your own colours, text, animations and more. However, there are also third-party tools available that can make the whole process a lot easier. These tools also give you the ability to create watchfaces on the device itself.

“There are third-party tools available so that you can choose your own colours and text”

Watchfaces

Create your own watchfaces



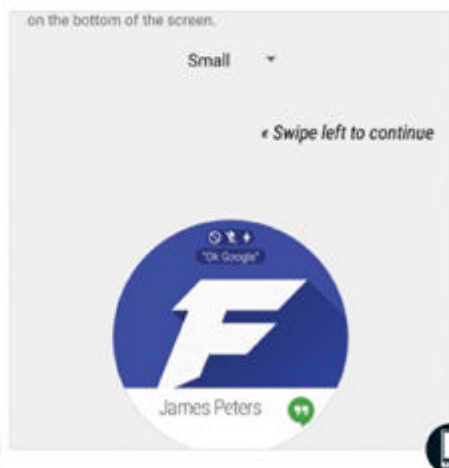
1: Download Facer

Facer is one of the best applications for creating watch faces directly on your phone or tablet and it's a free download from the Play store at play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.jeremysteckling.facerrel.



2: Enable and test

After installation, the Facer watchface will be deployed. This is a container that the app sends design to. When you first launch, a sample watchface is installed. Select the Facer watchface on your device and test sending the sample face.



3: Create your watchface

After creating a watchface, the first step is to set the options. You can choose card size, ambient display preferences, notification background settings and notification/icon locations. A sample watchface lets you see the changes happen.

A new face

See what can you create on Facer for a custom watchface

Shape your destiny

Choose between round or square watchfaces so that you can create custom faces for all available watches. The resolution of images is down to you though

Notification behaviour

You can use different size notifications depending on how you plan to use your watch. Large cards show a lot more information, but obscure most the screen

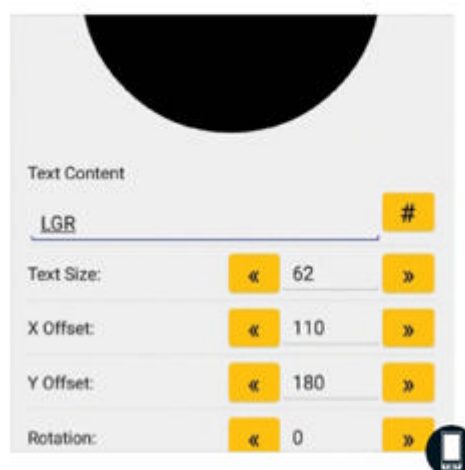


Download a face

Unsure what custom watchface you want but definitely know you don't want a standard one? The community has been hard at work creating their own watchfaces, some of which are available online. A quick search of Google or DeviantArt is your best bet to find something you genuinely like

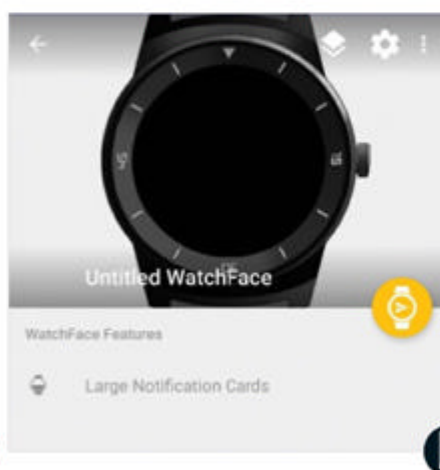
Resolutions for you

The LG G Watch is low on pixels at 280 x 280, where as a lot of the circular watches and the higher end square ones clock in at 320 x 320 or 320 x 290



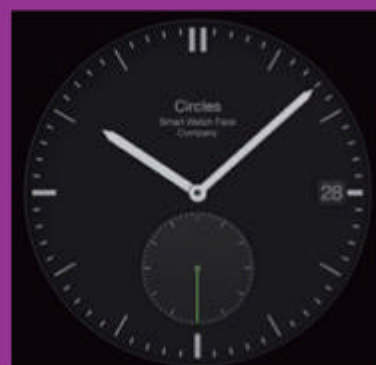
4: Add face elements

After you've defined the options, add content to the face itself. Any number of images, text and shape elements can be added. Each can be edited, sized, positioned and rotated to achieve your desired effect.



5: Send the watch face

Because of the way Facer works, you can only have one watch face deployed at a time. Select the watchface you want and press the yellow button – in a few seconds you can see the results of your work. Then, tweak as you see fit.



Mod stock watchfaces

Are you looking to mod the stock watchfaces? Extract the APKs via ADB in recovery, edit the resources using APKtool and push them back, again in recovery. Remember to keep a backup of the original files!

Optimise your G Watch with an exclusive custom ROM

Download our exclusive MoDaCo Custom ROM for the G Watch

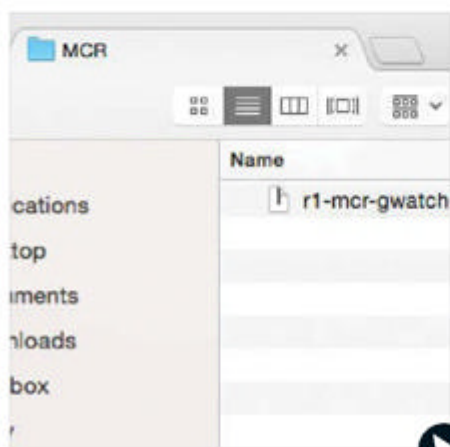


If you are looking for a lightly massaged custom ROM for the original square LG G Watch, then check out this exclusive

download. It is based on the latest Lollipop stock ROM, optimised for performance and has a number of usability tweaks and improvements. It also benefits from being prerooted for your convenience. You can find full details at mdc.gd/mcrgforwatch. This ROM is also a good starting point if you want to create your own custom ROM and you are free to do so. Note that this ROM is not suitable for and should not be flashed on other Android Wear devices other than the LG G Watch.

“This ROM is a good starting point if you want to create your own custom ROM and you are free to do so”

MoDaCo ROM Optimise your G Watch



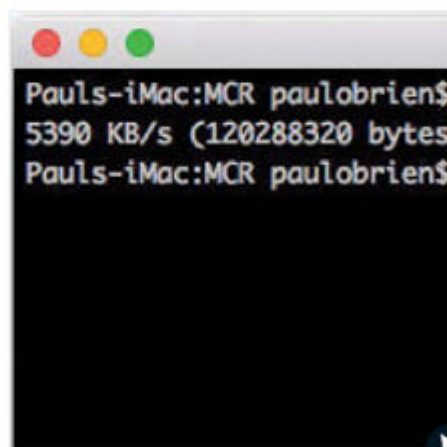
1: Download the ROM

The MoDaCo Custom ROM for the G-Watch can be downloaded here: goo.gl/uOFNaR. The download is in a signed ZIP format, so it will only flash if the download completes correctly and is not corrupted. Proceed at your own risk!



2: Load TWRP recovery

To load the ROM your device must be bootloader unlocked. Boot or flash the TWRP custom recovery from bit.ly/1LzjDck. The command fastboot boot lets you retain the stock recovery image, use fastboot flash recovery for easy access.



3: Push the ROM

While the device is booted or in recovery mode, copy the ROM ZIP itself to the device. The G Watch doesn't have a physical SD card, it has a 'virtual' sdcard which you can push to with adb push r1-mcr-gwatch-signed.zip /sdcard.

Benefits of ROMs

Why should you be installing a custom ROM on your watch?

Other ROMs

In the early days of Android Wear, there aren't a whole lot of custom ROMs to go around for different watches, but they're still there. Some for specific watches, others more universal – a quick Google or search of the XDA forums with your watch in mind should yield ROMs to try out, or some in development to keep an eye on.

Better performance

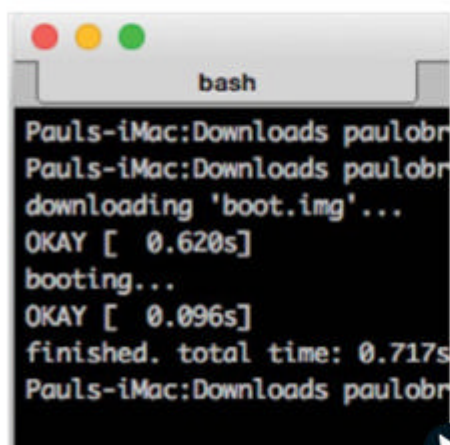
Optimisations for every specific hardware type aren't in the stock ROM, but custom ROMs have them and they improve overall performance of the watch.

Battery saving

The battery life of current Android Wear isn't bad as smart devices go, but a custom ROM will help expand that even further thanks to better power saving options and defaults.

More to do

The ultimate goal of custom ROMs is to open up the functions of the watch, such as allowing for you to more easily use it as a microphone for phone calls.



4: Back up, wipe and flash

After pushing the ROM to the watch, first, back up your current ROM and use adb pull to copy it to your PC for safe keeping. Wipe your device due to certificate changes. Flash the ZIP and check on screen that everything applied correctly.



5: Reboot and test

The install should now be completed and after selecting the reboot option in recovery, your watch should boot to the set-up screen. If your device doesn't boot, you can use adb reboot recovery to get back to recovery.

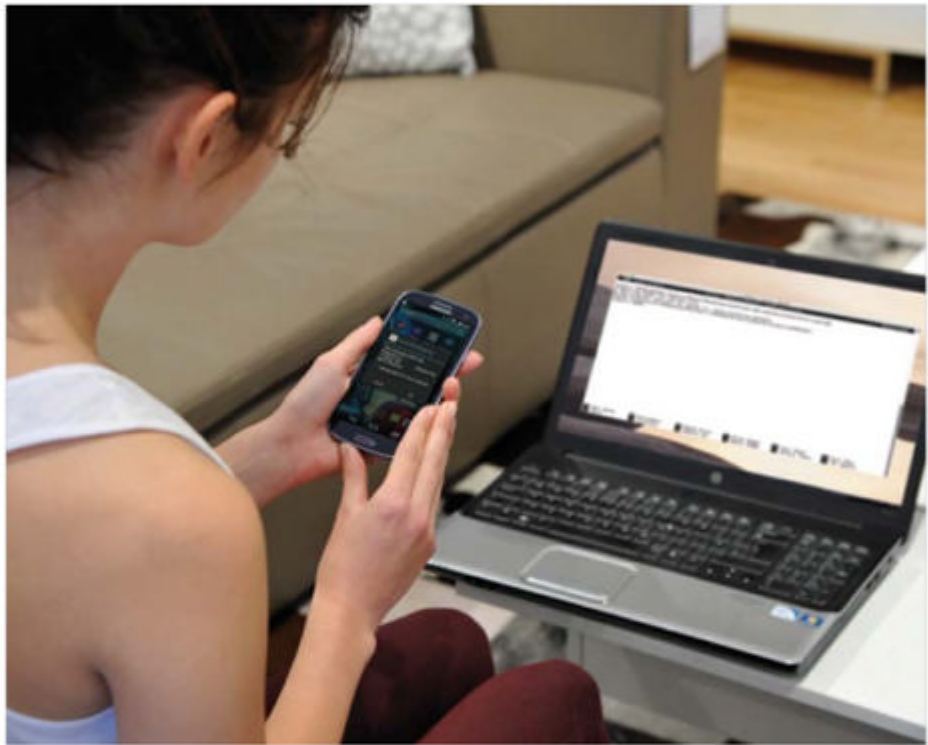


6: Stock and OTAs

If wish to revert to stock, you can do so by rebooting to recovery and restoring the back-up image you saved earlier. When you are using the custom ROM, you shouldn't accept any OTA updates that are offered as they won't apply.

Install hundreds of Android apps

Sideloading lets you add a huge selection of Android apps to your Android Wear device in seconds. Once set up, the benefits are potentially huge



This tutorial will take you through the process of sideloading apps onto your Android Wear device, which means that you can, in

theory, install apps that have not been specifically made for the hardware. The tools that you will need to use and the methods included here are not basic and do require some learning in order to use them, but they have been tested time and time again and should not pose any problems.

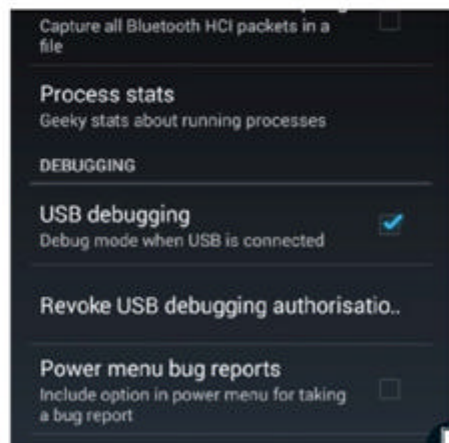
We have included links to a quick setup for ADB and also tools that can make the actual installation of apps much easier thanks to their UI-centric interface. You will need to use a PC, your phone and your watch to sideload apps, and the phone will be crucial in ensuring that it all goes smoothly. The phone needs to be physically connected to the PC, and it will then facilitate the installation of apps onto your watch. If you are careful with the apps you sideload, you will be able to use them to greatly enhance the functionality of your Android Wear device, but be aware that some apps will not function properly, as they were not designed to work that way, despite the fact that they will still install on your watch without any problems.

Android Wear Install any app on your watch



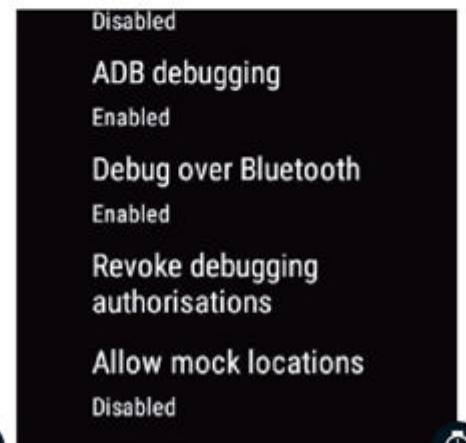
1: Use desktop ADB

You will need to set up ADB on a desktop or laptop to sideload apps and a guide at bit.ly/1M9CSXY will tell you all that you need to know. Take time to ensure it works.



2: Tick USB debugging

Enable Developer Options on your Android phone, and locate the 'USB debugging' option. Make sure this is ticked for the PC to fully connect to your phone and then to your watch.



3: Debug the watch

On your Android Wear device, make sure Developer Options are enabled and then scroll through them. You will now need to enable 'ADB debugging' and 'Debug over Bluetooth'.

Multiple software solutions

The process to sideload apps requires some quick learning

Use safe APKs

Make sure you only download APK files from reputable sources. Developers often make APKs available for beta testing, which is one of the best ways to use them safely

Advanced tools

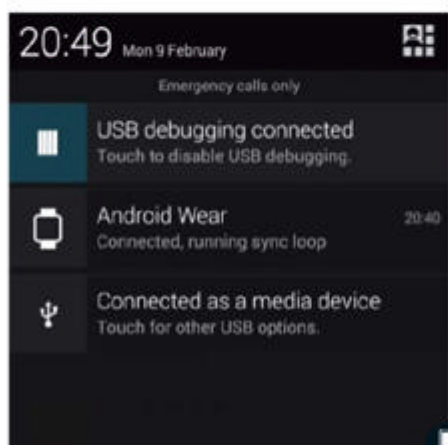
It makes sense to read up on how the tools you will be using work. The process is not easy, but it is manageable with a little bit of knowledge, and should work first time

What works?

Sideload apps to an Android Wear device offers the possibility of enhancing the experience, but you won't want to waste your time installing apps that cannot work properly. Remember that most apps are designed for phones and thus some will not work at all in the Android Wear environment. If you understand the limits, they will work well.

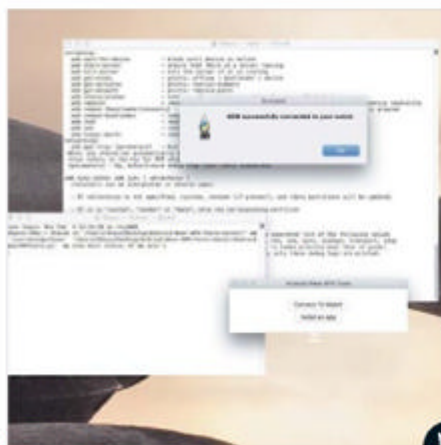
Don't overdo it

Remember that Android Wear devices have a limited amount of memory, so try not to install apps that are very large. Also, the processors are slow compared to phones



4: Connect your devices

Connect your Android phone to your PC using a USB cable, and make sure that ADB is running. If your PC recognises your phone, most of the technical work will have been done.



5: Make it easier

You can also use Android Wear APK Tools from bit.ly/1uAflV5 to simplify the process and offer an easier UI to manage. When connected, you should see a confirmation.



6: Sideload an APK

Once you have found an Android APK file, you will be able to select it and let the ADB system do the work for you. When the install completes, it will be available on your watch.

Take more control with Gohma

Use Gohma on your Android Wear to increase your control and customisation options over your device, as well as extend your battery



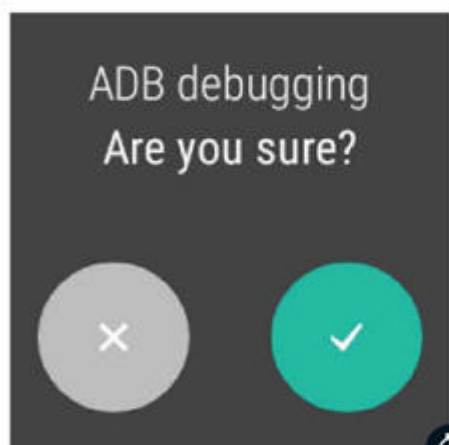
One of the tricks to Android's success is that the base code for the operating system allows it to run on a wide range of hardware without needing to add any extra drivers. It means manufacturers can take minimal time to actually get their phones and tablets working, making it a lot cheaper for them.

Android Wear is quite similar, allowing companies to very easily get a running watch working and connecting to an Android device. It's especially noticeable with the watches at the moment, because very few modifications to the UI exist between the different brands.

This broad range of support, while useful for actually getting a working product, means that the code is not always completely optimised for the device it is running on. With new devices, like the G Watch, this can be quite useful to proper hackers who have a look at the code. As the software is free for anyone to use, software engineers and hobbyists have free reign to look over it and make changes.

Gohma is the result of this – a custom ROM for the G Watch that gives speed, performance and battery optimisations, plus a few extra tricks for you to check out.

Gohma Customise your G Watch



1: Prepare the watch

Ensure your rooted watch has USB debugging turned on. Find this in the development options unlocked by pressing Build seven times in the About menu pulled down from the top.



2: Get the software

Visit bit.ly/1zBgYTL to download the Gohma files. Otherwise, you can Google it, but make sure you add 'g watch' to the search or you'll end up reading about videogame spiders.

Date modified	Type	Size
02/10/2014 07:06	File folder	
20/05/2015 21:21	File folder	
15/12/2014 08:30	File folder	
16/11/2012 23:57	Application	852 KB
16/11/2012 23:57	Application	796 KB
01/01/2014 17:10	SQLite File	1,202 KB
15/05/2013 15:01	CSV File	1,207 KB
16/11/2012 23:57	Application schema...	94 KB
16/11/2012 23:57	Application schema...	60 KB
16/11/2012 23:57	Application	154 KB
01/01/2014 17:10	SQLite File	154 KB
15/05/2013 15:01	SQLite File	185 KB
17/12/2014 08:40	SQLite File	2 KB
17/12/2014 08:40	SQLite File	1 KB
17/12/2014 08:40	SQLite File	2 KB
17/12/2014 08:40	SQLite File	1 KB
11/07/2014 02:56	Disk Image File	6,742 KB
02/10/2015 20:40	Text Document	4 KB
17/12/2014 08:40	Windows Batch File	2 KB
17/12/2014 08:40	Windows Batch File	1 KB

3: Connect to a computer

Unzip the files and connect your G Watch to your computer via the USB cable. If this is the first time you've done so since rooting, you may need to accept the debugging prompt.

What changes in Gohma

What you should notice when the custom ROM has been installed

Other custom ROMs

As well as Gohma for the G Watch, you can also grab custom ROMs for other watches. This includes software such as the Tizen mod for the Galaxy Gear and other upcoming ROMs for optimising and customising your watch. It's one of the perks of owning an Android device, and these custom ROMs will only get better and more feature-full as time goes on.

Improved performance

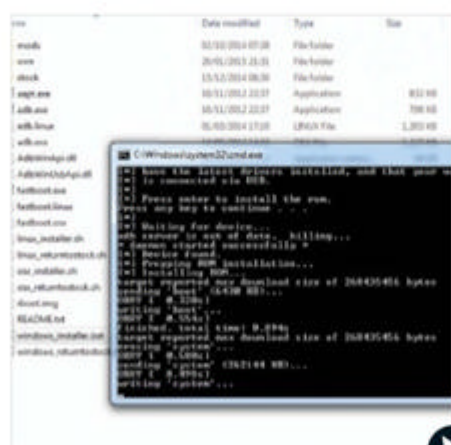
Swiping between notifications is now quicker and easier, with less lag and more responsive touch. Items will load faster and there are a few more options as well

Vibrate more

Have you felt that the standard vibration of the G Watch was a bit weak? Gohma makes the vibrations more powerful while still keeping the improved battery performance

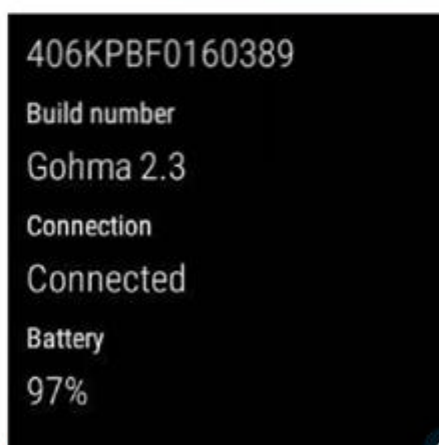
Better battery life

Having to recharge your watch every night is one thing, but while on the go is a complete inconvenience. A better battery reduces this



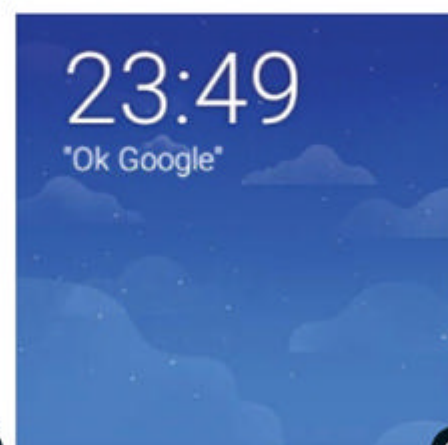
4: Install the ROM

Double click on the windows installer.bat to get the installation started. All you'll need to do is press any key for it to do its thing. Leave it alone and do not unplug your phone from the PC.



5: Finish and reboot

The watch will reconnect to your phone and act as if little has changed. Check by going back to the About settings in the menu. You should see Gohma under the Build number.



6: Use your watch

Now you have your custom ROM installed, the watch should have all the extra benefits of Gohma without having to install or set up anything else.

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Aid your lifestyle

Make the most of your watch by keeping track of your agenda, taking photos and more



Keep fit

Never lose sight of your fitness, track your heart rate, relay recipes and more



Stay social

Find out how to utilise the social media apps integrated with your watch



Hack your device

Want to play games or create your own face? Learn how to best root your device

Track your heart rate and steps

Get to know the Android Wear app



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